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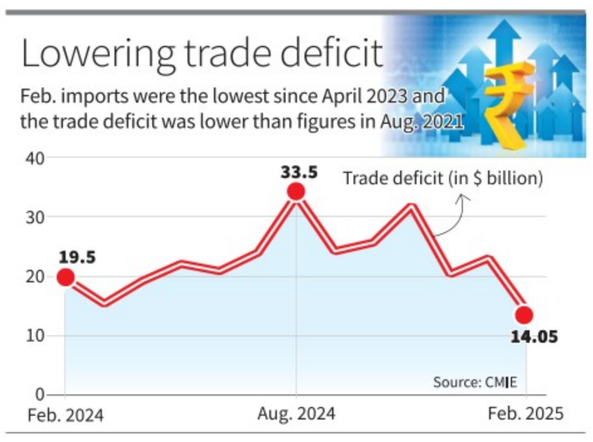
India's goods trade deficit at 42-month low following dip in gold, crude imports

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI



India's goods trade deficit was down to a 42-month low of $14.05 billion as imports of gold, silver and crude dipped in February, show data from the Commerce and Industries Ministry. The difference between import and export of goods was $22.9 billion in January. In February 2024, the merchandise trade deficit stood at $19.5 billion.

India's gold and silver imports were at $2.7 billion, which was the lowest since June 2024, when the value was $2.5 billion.

As for crude and petroleum, imports were at $11.89 billion, which was the lowest since July 2023, when the value was at $11.81 billion.

India exported goods worth $36.9 billion in February 2025. Imports, however, slipped to a 22-month low of $50.9 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, exports dipped 10.84% in February 2025.

"A portion of the YoY decline in merchandise exports can be attributed to the base year effect related to the leap month," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at the credit rating agency ICRA, wrote in a statement. Imports however shrunk 16.3% in the reporting month as against the corresponding period last year.

"The trade deficit was significantly lower than the average of over $23 billion during the first 10 months of FY2025," Ms. Nayar said.

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Trade discussions with U.S. 'positive', says official

India has 'proactively engaged' with the U.S. to boost trade, says Commerce Secretary; he says talks are being held on multi-sectoral deal and to raise trade between the countries to $500 bn

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. are "proactively engaged" in boosting trade between the two countries, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Monday.

"We are proactively engaging with the U.S., and discussing mutually beneficial issues which can increase the trade between the two countries," Mr. Barthwal told pressperson on Monday in response to questions on U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2.

He described the talks that Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had in the U.S. between March 4 and 6 with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick as "positive", and said these "positive talks will continue".

> We are proactively engaging with the U.S., and discussing mutually beneficial issues which can increase the trade between the two countries. All the measures required will be discussed bilaterally.
>
> **SUNIL BARTHWAL**
> Secretary, Department of Commerce

The senior government official said that these talks were taking place within the framework of "Mission 500", which aims at increasing trade between the two countries from $200 billion to $500 billion, besides negotiations on the bilateral trade agreement which he said will be multi-sectoral.

Silent on Tesla

Mr. Barthwal declined to comment on the specific issue of tariffs on premium electric cars from the U.S., such as those made by billionaire Elon Musk-owned Tesla, and the status of the revised import policy announced last year to woo the American automaker. He declined comment on whether tax sops would be extended for Tesla beyond the export policy as it has not yet come forward to express interest in domestic manufacturing to avail itself of the benefits of the policy.

The Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars, which offers a lower custom duty of 15% to a manufacturer setting up production facility in India, was notified in March 2024.

Mr. Trump had said that if Tesla were to build a factory in India to circumvent tariffs, it would be "unfair" to the U.S. He had also called out India's high duty on cars during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last month, but agreed to work towards an early trade deal.

NEARBY

Bedlam over CM's remarks on RSS

BENGALURU
The Legislative Assembly witnessed acrimonious scenes on Monday over certain remarks made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against the RSS during his reply to the motion of thanks to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's address to the State legislature. » PAGE 6

Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway may be ready by 2026

BENGALURU
The much-anticipated Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, which will significantly improve connectivity between the two State capitals, is expected to be fully completed only by June 2026. » PAGE 2

India, New Zealand to institutionalise defence and security ties, says Modi

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his New Zealand counterpart, Christopher Luxon, in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Monday that India and New Zealand would "strengthen and institutionalise" defence and maritime cooperation and reminded his counterpart from New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, that the two countries had fought global terrorism. India believed in development and not in expansionism, the Prime Minister said.

"We have decided to strengthen and institutionalise our defence and security collaboration. In addition to joint exercises, training and port visits, a road map for bilateral defence industry collaboration will be developed. Our Navies are working together in the Combined Task Force-150 for maritime security in the Indian Ocean," Mr. Modi said after delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House.

He announced that the two countries would celebrate a century of sporting relationship in 2026.

External Affairs Ministry sources described the memorandum of understanding on defence as "a large omnibus agreement". Mr. Modi said the two sides had started discussion on a "mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement [FTA]".

"This shall increase the potential for bilateral trade and investment. Mutual cooperation and investment shall be encouraged in fields such as dairy, food, processing, and pharma," he said. He described India and New Zealand as part of a common front against terrorism, and reminded that the two sides dealt with the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai and the attacks in Christchurch on March 15, 2019. Mr. Modi spoke about the activities of pro-Khalistan activists in New Zealand.

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Rajnath raises SFJ issue with Gabbard

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh with U.S. National Intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard on Monday. PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, at a meeting with U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard here on Monday, asked the U.S. to declare the Khalistan separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) a terrorist organisation, official sources said. The SFJ is headed by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. "We discussed a wide range of issues which include defence and information sharing, aiming to further deepen the India-US partnership," Mr. Singh said on X.

"The Defence Minister conveyed that the SFJ was involved in terrorist activities, and is supported by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence. He asked the U.S. to act against them, and declare them a terrorist organisation," an official source said of the meeting. The leaders also discussed maritime and other areas of cooperation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

DGP Ramachandra Rao quizzed by probe panel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Director-General of Police K. Ramachandra Rao, stepfather of Ranya Rao who was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for trying to smuggle 14.2 kg of gold, was questioned by the State government-appointed inquiry committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta on Monday evening.

Ranya had allegedly been misusing police escorts, provided to her in violation of rules, to evade custom checks.

The State government formed the Gaurav Gupta Committee to probe the misuse of police protocol services and the possible role of Mr. Rao in the case. He was sent on mandatory leave on March 15. In his statement to the committee, Mr. Rao is said to have denied any knowledge of Ranya allegedly smuggling gold. He is reported to have said that like many senior IPS officers do, he had asked a constable to help his family members whenever they fly through KIA.

Basavaraj, head constable from International Airport Police Station, who was escorting Ranya on March 3 when she was caught, in his statement to the DRI, said following the instructions, he had escorted Ranya 3-4 times earlier, and on March 3, she asked him to be present at KIA as she was arriving from Dubai that evening.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 5

Brook's IPL pullout — a fabulous stroke-maker's false shot and the consequences

The batter could have easily not entered the auction fray at all, citing his commitment to England; from Capitals' perspective, looking for a replacement at the eleventh hour will be frustrating

R. Kaushik

Actions have - must have - consequences. Unpleasant actions must therefore have unpleasant - for the actor concerned, that is - consequences. Hence the two-year ban slapped on Harry Brook, the England batter who pulled out of Season 18 of the Indian Premier League a little over a week back, citing the need to 'recharge after the busiest period in my career to date' as he prepares for his country's upcoming assignments.

This isn't the first time Brook is pulling out of the tournament. He had done so last year too following the demise of his grandmother, which had also compelled him to withdraw from the preceding five-Test series in India between January and March. Brook had been with Delhi Capitals last season and despite his unavailability for IPL 2024, the franchise plumped for him again during the November auction in Jeddah, shelling out ₹6.25 crore for his services.

The right-hander has featured in the IPL once, in the 2023 season when he represented Sunrisers Hyderabad. Despite a frenzied start to the tournament - a 55-ball 100 not against Kolkata Knight Riders - he had a season to forget, finishing with 190 runs in 11 games at a modest average of 22.11. At the time, Hemang Badani was in the coaching group at SRH. Last October, Badani was appointed the head coach of Delhi Capitals and surely, he must have liked what he'd seen of Brook to want to have his services in his first stint as the head coach of the IPL team.

Going all out

That Brook is a fabulous stroke-maker is hardly a secret. He averages 58.48 in 24 Tests with 317 against Pakistan five months back as the highest of his eight hundreds. He scores his Test runs at an astonishing 88.37 runs per 100 balls faced and so it is no surprise that his strike-rate across 149 T20s (domestic and international combined) is 149.95. He also averages 32.84 and boasts three centuries, marking him out as a special talent who is versatile across formats (his ODI numbers in 26 games are average 34, strike-rate 100.74). Clearly, Delhi and Badani knew what they wanted and left no stone unturned in going after him during the auction.

There was a vacuum at various levels in one of the eight original franchises (when the team was called Delhi Daredevils), with Rishabh Pant moving on and head coach Ricky Ponting parting ways amicably before taking up a similar role at Punjab Kings. Pant, the captain last year on his return from injury, was snapped up for an IPL record ₹27 crore by Lucknow Super Giants, so DC needed a new captain though Brook wasn't realistically in the running for that position, given the propensity of most IPL teams to invest in an Indian (eventually, Axar Patel was named the skipper last week, after K.L. Rahul turned down the offer).

But while Brook may not have been perceived as potential captaincy material, it was clear that the larger backroom decision-making group of Badani and fellow former India internationals Y. Venugopala Rao and Munaf Patel, among others, had had a big role in mind for the 26-year-old with vast experience (Brook made his First Class debut nearly nine years ago). Capable of dictating the outcome of a T20 game in a matter of a few balls, his clean and crisp ball-striking was too tempting to overlook, and he also would have been expected to contribute in a leadership capacity to whoever the next designated skipper would be.

In one fell swoop, Brook has chopped down all those aspirations. There was sympathy, empathy and understanding when he cried off from IPL 2024, but this time, he has triggered anger, if not outrage, both because of the reason he has proffered and the timing of his withdrawal, just three weeks before the start of the competition.

For Brook to put England first is perfectly fine, understandable, laudable even. But only if the circumstances had been different. He could so easily have not entered the auction fray at all, citing his commitment to the national cause and watched the exciting developments in Saudi Arabia with detached attachment. Instead, by throwing his hat in the ring, being snapped up for a not-inconsiderable amount and then waiting for more than three months before informing the England and Wales Cricket Board, and through them the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Delhi Capitals management that he wouldn't turn up, he has sold himself and the franchise short.

Left high and dry

From a DC perspective, the hunt for a replacement at this late stage will be frustrating. Their plans have all gone awry and there really aren't too many like-for-like replacements for someone of Brook's calibre. It's a point not lost on either Moeen Ali or Adil Rashid, who have both been vocal in their condemnation of Brook's decision. Treated shabbily more than once by the England establishment, Moeen blossomed at Chennai Super Kings under Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Now retired from international cricket, he is unafraid to voice his thoughts openly. Rashid, on the other hand, is a different matter entirely. The leg-spinner is an active international whose forays into the IPL have been practically non-existent; he played one game for SRH in 2021 and has been roped in this season by Punjab as an injury replacement for Jhye Richardson.

"They actually put that rule in place before, and then this happened," Rashid said of a rule that came into effect after the last season, where overseas players who pulled out for reasons other than injuries would cop a two-year ban. "So, when you put your name in, you know the consequences of withdrawing." The ace leggie also agreed that players should be held accountable for voluntary withdrawals.

The rule that Rashid was referring to was necessitated by a spate of withdrawals, without accountability, in seasons gone by. There was a spate of mid-tournament pullouts from IPL 2021 but in a way, that was understandable because the second wave of the pandemic was raging and many players feared that if their countries shut their borders, they wouldn't be able to go home for months together. But that apart, there have been worrying and infuriating pullouts for no justifiable reason.

Because there was no official censure or sanction, the franchises were left to fume and wring their hands in helplessness but with saner counsel now having prevailed and punishments in place for 'unforced' no-shows, Brook should have known that he was swimming in dangerous waters.

Brook will now stand out as an example. Maybe there will be an informal conversation surrounding his future in other global T20 franchise-driven tournaments with an IPL ownership presence.

The BCCI, the IPL governing council or the franchises can't tell the South African board, for instance, or those running Major League Cricket in the United States, to extend the BCCI/IPL sanction to these tournaments too. But who knows, perhaps they might get together and decide to steer clear of offenders like Brook, whose word and signature on the dotted line clearly mean little to him.

It's likely that not too long into the future, England will name Brook as their One-Day International captain, maybe even their all-format white-ball skipper. Jos Buttler quit the ODI captaincy after an abortive Champions Trophy campaign. It was the second global 50-over competition where England had failed to advance from the first stage under Buttler's leadership and with his own bat also going cold, he perhaps had no option to quit before he has sacked. Brook has emerged the early and overwhelming favourite to take charge of the ODI team, at the very least. Who knows, he might have a long memory and Rashid's words will have consequences of their own, though it will be unfair and presumptuous to state with conviction that Brook will hold that against his 37-year-old colleague.

The English, more than those from other countries, have been most culpable of not honouring their IPL commitments in their entirety for one reason or the other. Last year, for instance, Buttler himself, Phil Salt and Will Jacks were withdrawn by the ECB ahead of the playoffs so that they could play in a four-match Twenty20 International series at home against Pakistan, their final 20-over outings before the T20 World Cup in the Americas where England were soundly hammered in the semifinals by Rohit Sharma's men.

Buttler had been the key man for Rajasthan Royals alongside Sanju Samson, Salt and Sunil Narine had struck up a terrific opening partnership at (eventual champions) Kolkata Knight Riders and Jacks thrived under Faf du Plessis - and alongside Virat Kohli - as Royal Challengers Bengaluru embarked on a stirring late run that took them from the bottom of the table to a top-four finish. The ECB decision was condemned by even Michael Vaughan, the former captain in whose eyes anything associated with India is largely unacceptable.

For now, Brook can watch this, and the next two editions of the IPL, on television. He will not admit it, but there will be the disappointment of missing out - clearly, there is no FOMO - on turning his back on the adrenaline rush that is a unique and constant feature of this most electric experience. He can regret at leisure, reflecting on going into the history books for all the wrong reasons by becoming the first man to be officially banned from the IPL for a non-injury-driven withdrawal. The message has gone out loud and clear - ignore your commitments at your own peril. It's a lesson the others will do well to heed, because, as we said, actions have consequences.

THE GIST

- This isn't the first time Brook is pulling out of the tournament. He had done so last year too following the demise of his grandmother
- While he may not have been perceived as potential captaincy material, in one swoop he has chopped down all aspirations
- He can regret at leisure, reflecting on going into the history books for all the wrong reasons by becoming the first man to be officially banned from the IPL for a non-injury-driven withdrawal

June 2026 is NHAI's new deadline for Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway

The Karnataka portion has been completed and it became informally accessible to the public in December 2024

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The much-anticipated Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, which will significantly improve connectivity between the two State capitals, is expected to be fully completed only by June 2026.

Initially, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had planned to open the entire expressway by August 2025, but the deadline has now been pushed to June 2026 owing to construction delays.

According to the authority, of the total 262-km stretch, stretching from Hoskote in Karnataka to Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, 71 km has been completed so far, while the remaining sections are still under construction.

The Karnataka portion of the expressway was completed and became informally accessible to the public in December 2024. However, the sections passing through Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are still under development, officials said.

The four-lane access-controlled greenfield Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway , executed by NHAI. FILE PHOTO

Responding to a query from Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya, Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari recently stated that the remaining portions of the expressway are scheduled to be completed by June 2026.

Greenfield project

The ₹17,000-crore infrastructure project aims to significantly reduce travel time and fuel consumption between Bengaluru and Chennai. The expressway, being developed as a greenfield project, is expected to act as a key driver of economic growth along its 262-km route, stretching from Hoskote in Karnataka to Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

This expressway will serve as an alternative to the existing route via Hosur, Krishnagiri, and Ranipet, which spans approximately 340 km and takes around six hours to traverse. Traffic congestion on the current highway has been steadily increasing, highlighting the need for a faster and more efficient route.

"Since this is a greenfield project, land acquisition has not posed significant challenges as the road primarily passes through open lands. However, relocating electricity towers along the expressway's path required additional time and approvals from the Revenue Department," explained said an NHAI engineer involved in the project. Meanwhile, the completed 71-km section is already being used by residents for travel to nearby villages and by those keen on taking long drives. "Many people are using this stretch for local travel, and some are exploring the new road," said Waseem Ahmad, a cab driver from Kolar.

Officials have reiterated that the expressway is not yet fully operational and advised motorists traveling to Chennai to use the existing highways. "Work is still in progress on the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu sections, and commuters have been cautioned against taking the unfinished road," the official added.

Three packages

The expressway construction was divided into three packages in Karnataka. Package 1: Hoskote to Malur (27.1 km), Package 2: Malur to Bangarpet (27.1 km) and Package 3: Bangarpet to Bethamangala (17.5 km).

A resident of Hoskote, Ramprasad K., said, "Once completed, the expressway is expected to ease travel between Bengaluru and Chennai. It is very difficult to travel to Chennai now; we hope this expressway will reduce congestion on the existing highway, and enhance economic opportunities along the route."

Ban on two-wheelers

Meanwhile, the NHAI imposed a ban on two-wheelers from using the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway on March 3. The decision came a day after a tragic accident on the highway claimed the lives of four people, including a two-year-old child.

Trucks barred from exiting Bengaluru-Mysuru highway at Tubinakere: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Public Works Satish Jarkiholi said trucks and heavy vehicles heading to Mysuru from Bengaluru have been barred from exiting the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway at Tubinakere Industrial Area due to the traffic congestion and accidents they were causing on the service road.

Mr. Jarkiholi shared this information in the Legislative Council recently when Dinesh Gooli Gowda, MLC, sought an explanation from the government on the abrupt closure of certain entry and exit points on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, causing inconvenience to the public.

Clarifying that the entry and exit points on the highway at Bidadi, Mandya, Pandavapura, and Srirangapatna taluks had not been closed, the Minister pointed out that the trucks heading towards Mysuru from Bengaluru were exiting the highway at Elchakanahalli in Tubinakere Industrial Area to bypass the toll plaza.

The trucks, which were

A view of the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. M.A. SRIRAM

exiting the highway at Tubinakere to avoid the toll plaza, were causing traffic congestion and accidents. Following protests from local villagers and motorists, the trucks had been barred from entering the service road, he said.

However, Mr. Jarkiholi sought to make it clear that the restriction had been imposed only on trucks and heavy vehicles.

'Other vehicles allowed'

Other vehicles, including cars and jeeps, were allowed to access the exit from the highway to the service road to reach nearby villages and towns, including Pandavapura.

The Minister said the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had given a report that the service road had not been completely closed. The trucks proceeding towards Mysuru were exiting the service road at Tubinakere to avoid paying the toll at the Gananguru toll plaza situated a couple of kilometres away from Tubinakere.

Citing information from the Minister, Mr. Gooli Gowda, in a statement noted that vehicles travelling from Bengaluru to Mysuru had an exit point at Wonderla, an exit and entry points at Bidadi and Ramanagara, two entries and exits each in Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya, and Srirangapatna taluks. Out of the two entries and exits in Tubinakere, one exit at Elchakanahalli has been closed for heavy vehicles and trucks while the other entry and exit at Yaliyuru remains open.

For vehicles proceeding to Bengaluru from Mysuru, there are two entries and exits each from the highway to the service road in Srirangapatna taluk, Tubinakere Industrial Area, Mandya, Maddur, and Channapatna taluks. There was one entry and exit in Ramanagara taluk and two entries and one exit in Bidadi taluk, he said.

Work on projects in Mittaganahalli, Kannur villages to start soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following protests by residents of Mittaganahalli and Kannur villages over dumping the city's waste in the Mittaganahalli quarry pit, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon issue tenders and work orders and begin work on rural development projects worth ₹500 crore in these areas, Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said on Monday.

The funds were allocated for these areas in the last Budget and works are yet to be taken up, sources said. This comes days after Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar claimed he was being blackmailed by some MLAs over dumping yards in their constituencies and were demanding ₹800 crore for their constituencies.

Accumulated leachate

A key challenge at the Mittaganahalli landfill has been the accumulation of leachate – a contaminated liquid that results from decomposing waste. A staggering 275 crore litres of leachate have built up over time, posing severe environmental hazard.

"To tackle this, a tender has been issued for leachate treatment, and the issue is expected to be resolved over the next three to four years. At present, two treatment plants – one with 100 KLD (kilolitres per day) capacity and another with a 25 KLD capacity –are operational. Plans are under way to establish a 2,000 KLD plant to process the leachate effectively. The estimated cost of this initiative is around ₹474 crore," Mr. Giri Nath said.

He claimed that with these assurances and measures, the concerns of the villagers in these areas had been addressed and the crisis "resolved", with waste dumping operations resuming as usual.

"The protests in Mittaganahalli and Kannur stemmed from conflicts between local residents and contractors over improper waste disposal practices. These issues have been mostly resolved, leading to the resumption of garbage collection and disposal operations. Currently, waste is being disposed of at night in these areas, but measures are being taken to ensure daytime disposal as well. The Chief Executive Officer of the district panchayat will visit the affected areas to address any concerns and streamline the disposal process further," he said.

New season

Firecrackers lighting up the sky during the unveiling of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's new season at RCB Unbox 2025, at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Crackdown on illegal flexes: 12 cases filed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's directive to curb unauthorised flex boards and banners in Bengaluru, the BBMP has initiated strict action, filing at least 12 cases on Monday against those responsible.

Numerous flexes and banners were erected by Congress workers for the swearing-in ceremony of Youth Congress office-bearers at Palace Grounds on Monday. Addressing the issue a day earlier, Mr. Shivakumar told BBMP Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath to take immediate action against illegal advertisements, particularly around Palace Grounds. "I have ordered the removal of unauthorised banners and flex boards. Those responsible should take them down voluntarily. If not, strict action, including fines, will be imposed," he said, urging Youth Congress members to showcase their strength at polling booths instead.

Mr. Giri Nath said that since Sunday, 12 cases had been registered, and fines amounting to ₹12 lakh had been levied. Over 1,350 illegal flexes and banners were taken down across East, West, and Yelahanka zones, along with the removal of more than 600 party flags.

Two women killed in freak accident at Baiyappanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two women were killed in a freak accident when an electric pole fell on them on Sudduguntepalya Main Road in Baiyappanahalli on Monday night.

The deceased have been identified as Sumati and Soni, around 32 to 35 years. The duo was passing by on the road where repair work was on. An earthmover engaged in the work went into reverse gear and crashed into an electric pole, which fell on the two women who were passing by. Both sustained severe head injuries. They were rushed to a private hospital, but were declared brought dead. Other people at the site had a narrow escape.

The Baiyapanahalli police rushed to the spot, arrested the driver of the earthmover and seized the vehicle. A case of death due to negligence has been registered against the driver for further investigation.

Three convicted in POCSO cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Fast Track Court on Monday convicted a swimming coach for molesting a nine-year-old student in the changing room at the Betta Halasuru pool in 2023.

The victim was changing her clothes when the accused, as Manasa, barged in and molested her. The victim told her parents. They filed a complaint. The Chikkajala police arrested Manasa under the POCSO Act, 2012, and filed a charge sheet along with 11 witnesses. It sentenced him to five years imprisonment and a fine of ₹50,000.

In anther case, the court convicted Rudresh for raping a minor girl visiting her grandmother in Maranayakanahalli in 2021. The victim, along with her mother, had gone to the grandmother's house, when Rudresh lured her with chocolate, took her to an isolated place and raped her. The victim returned home and told her mother, who rushed her to the hospital before filing a complaint. The court sentenced the accused to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of ₹1 lakh.

In a third case, the court sentenced Gorla Lova Raju to seven years imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1.5 lakh on him for raping a 17-year-old minor girl and abducting her 15-year-old brother in May 2023. The accused had proposed to marry her before sexually assaulting her. The victims' parents filed a missing complaint based on which the police tracked down the victims and rescued them before arresting the accused.

Exam rescheduled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KEA has rescheduled the CET-2025 exam date and decided to conduct the Kannada exam for Horanadu and Gadinadu candidates on April 15. It was originally scheduled to be held on April 18. Since April 18 falls on Good Friday, there were requests to change the date.

The exam will only be held at Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Vijayapura, and Belagavi centers from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on the day.

Centre advises reduction in use of cooking oil by 10% in midday meals

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With an aim to encourage healthier eating habits among students, the Union government has advised states to reduce the usage of cooking oil by 10% in the midday meal programme in all government and aided schools under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme.

The Union Ministry of Education has released an advisory in this regard. It states that there is is an urgent need to raise awareness among teachers, parents, school students and community members on reducing the usage of cooking oil by 10% in day-to-day life through innovative ways.

"All cook-cum-helpers in schools must be trained to reduce the usage of cooking oil by 10%. We urge all students to be mindful of their oil consumption and adopt healthier cooking methods such as grilling, steaming, or baking instead of deep-frying," said the advisory.

It further said that special meetings of the School Management Committee, debate competitions, and essay competitions may be held to make people aware of the importance of exercise and fitness.

K.V. Trilok Chandra, Commissioner for Public Instruction in Karnataka, said that the advisories issued by the Union Ministry of Education in the interest of the health of school children will be implemented in the State as well. "I have already instructed the officials to issue a circular in this regard," he said.

The PM-POSHAN is a centrally-sponsored scheme aimed at providing nutritious meals to students. This initiative benefits all children enrolled in Bal-Vatika and classes 1 to 8 in government and aided schools. However in Karnataka, the government has extended this programme to classes 9 and 10 and around 54 lakh students benefit from it.

In the midday meals programme, meals are prepared to be nutritionally balanced, incorporating fortified rice/wheat/coarse grains, pulses and green leafy vegetables. Double Fortified Salt (DFS) and fortified edible oil (enriched with vitamin A&D) are used in measured quantities of 5 gm for primary and 7.5 gm for upper primary students to maintain optimal calorie intake from fats. Additionally, vegetables grown in School Nutrition Gardens are directly utilised.

What the PM said

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed his concern while speaking at 'Pariksha Pe-Charcha 2025' and 'Mann ki Baat' about increasing childhood obesity among school students in India. He pointed to Lancet journal which had reported that 12.5 million children between 5 to 19 years were overweight in 2022 as compared to 0.4 million in 1990, the share of boys being more than girls in urban areas. "There is an urgent need to educate students on the adverse effects of excessive consumption of oil and its connection to obesity. The PM-POSHAN scheme presents an excellent opportunity to instil healthy eating habits, encouraging students to prepare and consume fresh, nutritious meals with minimal oil," the advisory said.

Highlights of the advisory

- Conduct special classes on the importance of minimising oil usage in meals
- Invite nutrition experts to hold sessions on low-oil diets and healthy recipes
- Organise school-level quiz competitions on healthy eating habits
- Train teachers to identify obesity in students and guide parents on portion control and increasing physical activity
- Encourage students to prepare low-oil recipes at home under supervision
- Organise awareness campaigns at various levels
- Encourage school canteens to offer healthier, low-oil meal options and promote nutritious alternatives
- Promote healthier cooking techniques such as steaming, grilling, boiling and baking instead of deep-frying
- Advocate minimal consumption of processed foods and snacks, which often contain hidden oils and unhealthy fats
- Emphasise a diet of fruits, vegetables and wholegrains for balanced nutrition

How climate change is affecting India's wheat production cycle

The Indian Ocean is warming at an accelerated rate, which in turn is affecting India's monsoon, on which most of the country's agriculture depends. The kharif or summer crop season is starting and ending late, which delays the beginning of the rabi season. And wheat is a rabi crop

Priyali Prakash

India recorded its warmest February in 124 years this year. The India Meteorological Department has already raised an alarm for March, saying that the month will experience above normal temperatures and more than the usual number of days with heat waves. The period coincides with the beginning of India's wheat harvest season, and extreme heat poses a grave threat for the country's second-most consumed crop, after rice.

In India, wheat is primarily grown in the Indo-Gangetic plains. Producer states include Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh. ANI

Wheat in India

In India, wheat is primarily grown in the northwestern parts of the Indo-Gangetic plains. Primary producers include the states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh. Wheat needs a cooler season to grow, and the crop is usually sown between October and December. It is harvested between February and April in the rabi crop season.

The Indian government set a wheat procurement target of 30 million tonnes for the 2025-2026 rabi marketing season, news agency PTI reported in January. The lower procurement target comes despite the agriculture ministry aiming for a record wheat production of 115 million tonnes in the 2024-2025 crop year (July-June), the report added.

In 2024-2025, government wheat procurement was recorded at 26.6 million tonnes. While this exceeded the 26.2 million tonnes procured in 2023-2024, it fell short of the 34.15 million tonne target for the year.

In May 2022, India had prohibited wheat exports. This was shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, a major wheat-producing country, which disrupted international availability of the food grain and triggered a global price hike.

Heat and wheat

Climate variability itself is not a new phenomenon, but it catches our attention when the crop growth season overlaps with heat wave conditions, Sandeep Mahato of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, told *The Hindu*.

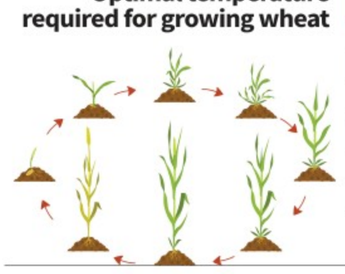
A 2022 study in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* noted that increasing global warming is causing heat stress that "triggers significant changes in the biological and developmental process of wheat, leading to a reduction in grain production and grain quality."

According to the paper's authors, heat stress is known to affect the growth and development of wheat by altering "physio-bio-chemical processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, oxidative damage, activity of stress-induced hormones, proteins and anti-oxidative enzymes, water and nutrient relations, and yield-forming attributes (biomass, tiller count, grain number, and size) upon exposure to temperatures above the optimum range,"

Stages of wheat growth

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, stages of wheat growth are defined based on how different organs of the plant develop. This can be broadly grouped into four stages:

Optimal temperature required for growing wheat



Stages	Optimum temperature	Minimum temperature	Maximum temperature
Seed germination	20-25 ± 1.2	3.5 - 5.5 ± 0.44	35 ± 1.02
Root growth	17.2 ± 0.87	3.5 ± 0.73	24.0 ± 1.21
Shoot growth	18.5 ± 1.90	4.5 ± 0.76	20.1 ± 0.64
Leaf initiation	20.5 ± 1.25	1.5 ± 0.52	23.5 ± 0.95
Terminal spikelet	16.0 ± 2.30	2.5 ± 0.49	20.0 ± 1.60
Anthesis	23.0 ± 1.75	10.0 ± 1.12	26.0 ± 1.01
Grain filling duration	26.0 ± 1.53	13.0 ± 1.45	30.0 ± 2.13

(i) Germination to emergence: This includes the growth of the seed until the seedling breaks through the soil surface and the first leaf emerges.

(ii) Growth stage 1: Steps from emergence to double ridge. Shoots appear, and the plant growth shifts focus from producing primordial leaves to flowering structures called spikelets.

(iii) Growth stage 2: This stage lasts from double ridge to anthesis. This is where the focus of the plant shifts from the vegetative to the reproductive stage. This is also one of the stages where the plant is comparatively more susceptible to heat stress.

(iv) Growth stage 3: This stage includes the grain-filling period, from anthesis to maturity.

According to experts, the real problem starts with the oceans. The Indian Ocean is warming at an accelerated rate. A 2024 study conducted by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, noted that the water body will likely be in a "near-permanent heat wave state" mainly as a result of global warming by the end of the century.

The frequency of marine heat waves is expected to increase tenfold, from the current average of 20 days per year to 220-250 days per year, the study added.

A warming Indian Ocean will in turn alter India's monsoon, on which most of the country's agriculture depends. For example, the kharif or summer crop season is starting and ending late, which inevitably delays the beginning of the rabi season.

Wheat is a rabi crop. If its sowing starts late, the later stages of plant growth will coincide with early heat waves in India. February 2025 was warmer than usual, and similar trends have been predicted for March. This is also the peak season for wheat harvest, and the ideal temperature in the later stages of the plant's growth should not cross 30° C.

"High temperatures cause early flowering and faster ripening, shortening the grain-filling period. This results in lighter grains with lower starch accumulation, reducing the total wheat output," Prakash Jha, assistant professor of agricultural climatology at Mississippi State University, told *The Hindu*.

"Extreme heat causes wheat to develop higher protein content but lower starch, making the grain harder and affecting milling quality. Farmers may face lower market prices due to reduced grain weight and quality issues," he added.

Low crop yield also tends to make farmers desperate and result in overuse of fertilizers, fungicides, etc. Nikhil Goveas, lead climate advisor with the Environmental Defense Fund, told *The Hindu*. "Higher but inefficient use of resources is another cascading effect of heat-stress challenges in crops."

Adaptation and mitigation

Food security is central to the adaptation and mitigation strategies officials use to lower the heat stress on wheat crops.

"Wheat is ... important for farmers because it can be consumed immediately, so part of the produce is always saved for household consumption," Goveas said.

Farmers rely on older varieties of the crop because accessibility is a challenge, with problems related to the supply chain, costs, etc. Climate-resilient varieties are important, but they are not a silver bullet solution to the challenge, Goveas added, "The problem is a deeper challenge of the climate crisis on our food systems. The earth is getting warmer. We need to think about not just one crop but all crops: get timings right, have our information and weather systems updated with the knowledge of what to expect, and undertake mitigation efforts against the challenges."

> Changes in strategies to support early sowing of crops in areas that are likely to see early heat waves, or introducing improved yield varieties with shorter growth duration, are some policy changes that can alleviate heat stress on wheat

"The larger question here is to be able to guarantee food security," Mahato of MSSRF Chennai said. "We have to focus on addressing yield gaps. This ties into the issue of management of resources like fertilizers, pest control, etc."

According to Mahato, immediate policy support to farmers to deal with heat stress effects on wheat can be in the form of compensation, but there are more long term solutions that need to be incorporated into our agricultural practices.

"Changes in agricultural management strategies to support early sowing of crops in areas that are likely to see early heat waves, or introducing improved yield varieties with shorter growth duration, are some policy changes that can alleviate heat stress on wheat," he added. "There is no compromise that can be done on improving production, and that should be the central goal to the adaptation question."

"Policymakers must take a multi-pronged approach, combining scientific research, financial support, technological solutions, and farmer education to protect wheat crops from rising heat stress," according to Jha. "This includes promoting heat-resistant wheat varieties, adjusting sowing dates, financial support and crop insurance, and weather monitoring and advisories."

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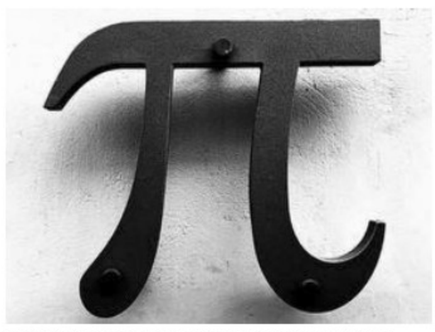

A pi symbol on a wall in Nafplio, Greece. TASO KATSIONIS/UNSPLASH

Pi Day was on March 14. Why is it celebrated?

Associated Press

Mathematics enthusiasts around the world, from college students to rocket scientists, celebrate Pi Day, which is on March 14 every year. The date was chosen because it can be written 3/14 – the first three digits of an infinite number with many practical uses.

Simply put, pi is a mathematical constant that expresses the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It figures into numerous formulas used in physics, astronomy, engineering, and other fields, dating back thousands of years to ancient Egypt, Babylon, and China.

Pi Day itself dates to 1988, when physicist Larry Shaw began celebrations at a science museum in San Francisco. The holiday didn't really gain national recognition until, in 2009, the US Congress officially designated every March 14 to be the big day in the hopes of spurring more interest in math and science. Fittingly, the day is also Albert Einstein's birthday.

Pi is considered a constant number. It is also mathematically irrational. Long before computers, scientists such as Isaac Newton spent hours calculating decimal places by hand. The first algorithms that calculated pi up to record-setting lengths of several million digits were based on formulae published by Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan in 1914.

Today, using sophisticated computers,

The number is key to accurately pointing an antenna towards a satellite. It helps figure out everything from the size of a massive cylinder needed in refinery equipment to the size of paper rolls used in printers

researchers have come up with trillions of digits for pi after the decimal point, but there is no end.

The number didn't get its name until 1706, when Welsh mathematician William Jones began using the Greek symbol for the number. It's the first Greek letter in the words "periphery" and "perimeter," and pi is the ratio of a circle's periphery, or circumference, to its diameter.

The number is key to accurately pointing an antenna towards a satellite. It helps figure out everything from the size of a massive cylinder needed in refinery equipment to the size of paper rolls used in printers.

Pi is also useful in determining the necessary scale of a tank that serves heating and air conditioning systems in buildings of various sizes.

Space agencies like ISRO use pi to calculate orbits, the positions of planets, elements of rocket propulsion, and spacecraft communication.

NASA holds its annual Pi Day Challenge online, offering games and puzzles, such as calculating the orbit of an asteroid or the distance a moon rover would need to travel each day to survey a certain area.

As for Einstein, possibly the world's best-known scientist, he was born on March 14, 1879, in Germany. The value of pi was used in many of his breakthrough theories, and now Pi Day gives the world another reason to celebrate his achievements.

The famed physicist Stephen Hawking also died on March 14, 2018, at age 76. And he once said, "One of the basic rules of the universe is that nothing is perfect. Perfection simply doesn't exist. Without imperfection, neither you nor I would exist."

Ironically, pi is the perfect example.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Elements and their cliques in the periodic table

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Elements of this group in the periodic table are called X because they are present in the vast majority of ore-bearing rock on the earth. All but one of these elements are also primordial: their nuclides existed in their present since before the earth was formed. Name X.

QUESTION 2

This group in the periodic table gets its name from the Greek for "to choke," referring to the property of one of its member elements to asphyxiate people who have inhaled large quantities of it. Name the element in particular.

QUESTION 3

All elements in this group of the periodic table have three electrons in the valence shell of their atoms. Thus the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry suggested these elements be called _____ in 1970. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Elements in this group are sometimes called the _____ — a name referring to their atoms' ability to bond in tetrahedral arrangements like that found in diamond, and from the Green for "diamond-like". Indeed, many of their compounds also have a diamond-like hardness. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Of the group 9 elements, the atom of _____ alone bucks the Aufbau principle, which states that electrons in an atom fill a lower energy shell completely before moving to a higher energy one. But as a result, this element is an exceptional catalyst. Name it.

Answers to March 13 quiz:

1. Entity found in 1964 that later revealed universe's structure – **Ans: Cosmic microwave background**
2. Geologist who posited continental drift – **Ans: Alfred Wegener**
3. Originator of elliptic orbits in the heliocentric model – **Ans: Johannes Kepler**
4. Scientist who found genetic mutations are source of diversity – **Ans: Theodosius Dobzhansky**
5. Element used to explain combustion before oxygen – **Ans: Phlogiston**

Visual: **Margaret Hamilton**

First contact: Priyanka Jarolia | Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Prajjwal Pawar | Anmol Agrawal

Visual: Name this man, the first scientist to isolate one particular element and win a Nobel Prize for it. The element in question is so viciously reactive, it has been called a "savage beast." Its group is known as the "salt-formers." PUBLIC DOMAIN

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of missing person cases reported in Odisha in 9 months

20,060 As many as 20,060 missing person cases were registered across Odisha between June 2024 and February 2025, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi informed the Assembly on Monday. PTI

Number of teams deployed in Delhi against eve-teasing

30 The Delhi Police has launched a dedicated squad against eve teasing, 'Shishtachar,' with at least 30 teams deployed across the national capital, especially in hotspots, to check incidents of harassment and ensure the safety of women in public spaces. PTI

India's exports declined in the month of February

36.91 In $ billion. India's exports declined for the fourth month in a row in February to $36.91 billion due to volatility in petroleum prices and global uncertainties. The country's exports stood at $41.41 billion in the same month a year ago. PTI

The number of applications filed under the IBC

40,943 Of the many applications filed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 28,818 applications involving ₹10 lakh crore were resolved even before admission, the Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs said. PTI

Dumpsites remediated under the Swachh Bharat Mission

701 Out of the 2,424 legacy dumpsites, 701 have been remediated so far under the Swachh Bharat Mission while the work of flattening 1,179 garbage mounds is currently in progress, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are electoral reforms necessary?

Since when have votes been registered solely through Electronic Voting Machines? Why have certain Opposition parties accused the EC of electoral roll manipulation? Should criminal cases of politicians standing for elections be given wide publicity?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Election Commission (EC) has invited political parties to discuss strengthening the election process. This is in wake of the allegations of manipulation of electoral rolls during the recently concluded assembly elections and issues raised with respect to duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers in different States.

What are the legal provisions?

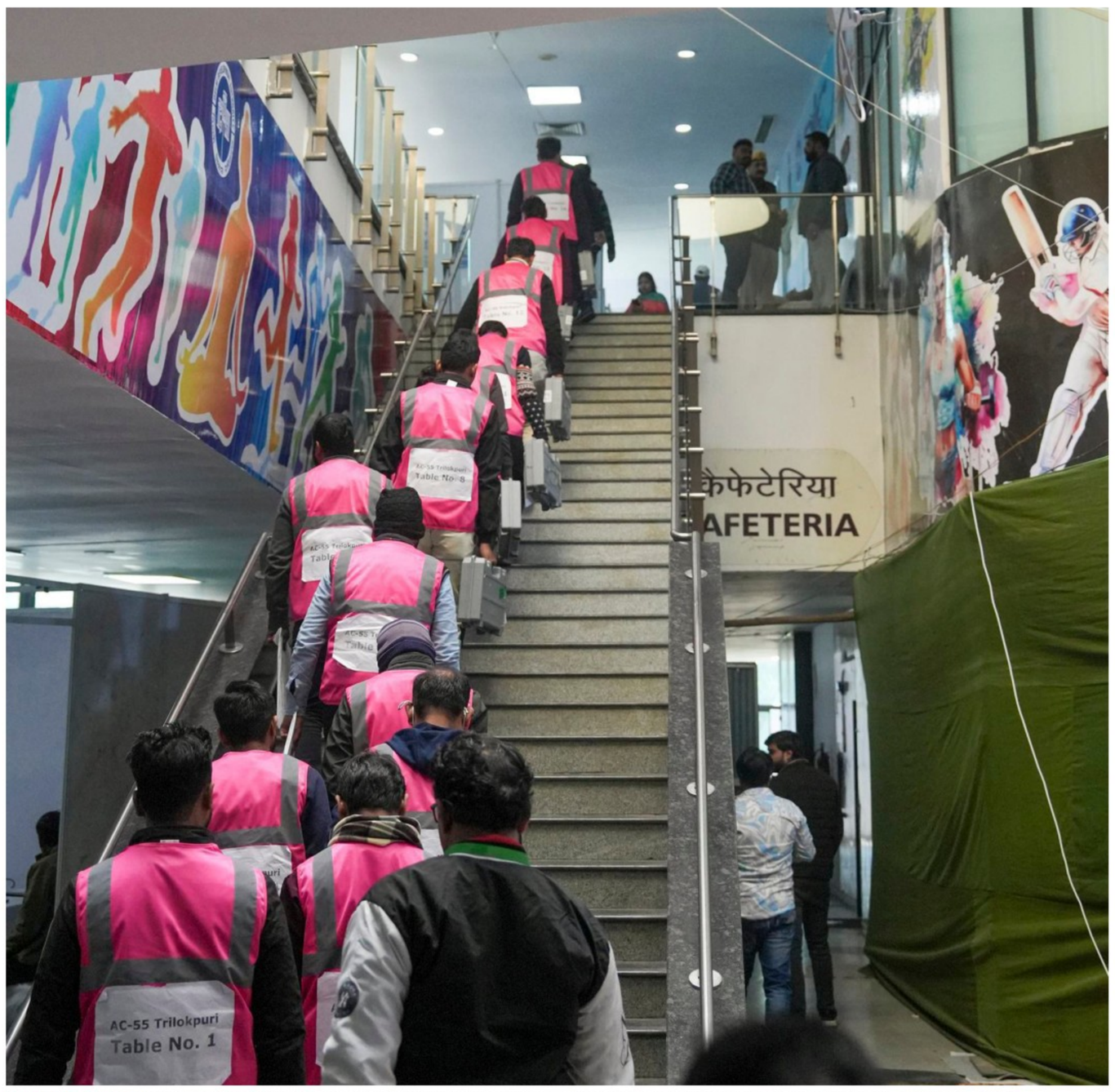
Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Parliament and State legislature shall be vested in the EC. The preparation of electoral rolls is governed by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and related rules, including Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

The voting process has undergone tectonic changes since the first general election in 1952. In the first two general elections of 1952 and 1957, a separate box was placed for each candidate with their election symbol. Voters had to drop a blank ballot paper into the box of the candidate whom they wanted to vote for. It is only from the third general election in 1962 that ballot papers with names and symbols of candidates was introduced. Subsequently, since the 2004 general elections to the Lok Sabha, Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) have been used in all constituencies. Since 2019, EVMs have been backed by 100% Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in all constituencies.

What are the issues?

There have been a series of issues raised in the past with respect to the voting and counting process. First, there were demands through a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) for reverting to paper ballot papers which was dismissed by the Supreme Court in April 2024. Second, the same PIL demanded 100% matching of VVPAT with EVM count, which at present is carried out for five machines per assembly constituency/segment. The Supreme court, while dismissing this demand as well, had directed that the burnt memory of microcontrollers of 5% of EVMs, which includes that of control units, ballot units, VVPATs, in every assembly segment can be checked and verified by a team of engineers of the EVM manufacturers in case of any suspicion of tampering. The exercise needs to be initiated via a written request from candidates who are placed second or third in a constituency, within seven days of the declaration of election results.

Third, there were allegations of manipulation of electoral rolls in the run up to the Maharashtra and Delhi Assembly elections. The Opposition parties alleged that large number of bogus/fake voters were added to the electoral roll to benefit the ruling party at the Centre. The fourth and current issue relates to identical EPIC numbers for voters belonging to different States like West Bengal, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab. Opposition parties such as the Trinamool Congress allege that it vindicates their claim of bogus voters being included in the voters' list. The EC has explained that duplication may have arisen because of the earlier decentralised system for allotting EPIC numbers before shifting to the centralised database on the ERONET platform. It clarified that irrespective of the EPIC number, an elector can cast his/her vote only in their designated polling station in their State or Union Territory.



Need for a revamp: Poll officials carrying EVMs enter the Patparganj counting centre for the Delhi Assembly polls, in New Delhi, on February 8. PTI

Apart from the above issues in the election process, there are significant issues related to the campaign process that have to be addressed. First, 'Star Campaigners' of most parties have been guilty of using inappropriate and abusive words against leaders of other political parties, appealing to caste/communal feelings of electors, and making unsubstantiated allegations. Second, candidates of all major political parties breach the election expenditure limit by a wide margin. Further, there are no limits on political party spending during elections. The Centre for Media Studies has estimated that the expenditure during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was close to ₹1,00,000 crore by various political parties. Such inflated election expenditure fuels corruption resulting in a vicious cycle. Third, as per the report of the Association of Democratic Reforms, the issue of criminalisation of politics has almost reached its nadir with 251 (46%) of the 543 elected MPs in 2024, having criminal cases against them. Of them 170 (31%) face serious criminal charges including rape, murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping.

What are the required reforms?

Free and fair elections is part of the basic structure of our Constitution as declared by the Supreme Court in various cases.

With respect to the electoral process of voting and counting, the following reforms need to be considered and implemented. First, as regards the EVM and VVPAT related aspects, the sample size for the matching of EVM count and VVPAT slips should be decided in a scientific manner by dividing each State into large regions. In case of even a single error, VVPAT slips should be counted fully for the concerned region. This would instil statistically significant confidence in the counting process. Further, as recommended by the EC in 2016, in order to provide a degree of cover for voters at the booth level, 'totaliser' machines can be introduced that would aggregate votes in 14 EVMs before revealing the candidate-wise count. The candidates placed second or third should also utilise the direction of the Supreme Court to demand the verification of 5% of EVMs in each assembly segment in case of any suspected tampering. If any issue is identified, it should be suitably addressed and if there are none, it would put to rest the political speculation.

Second, to address the apprehension of inclusion of fake voters and duplicate EPIC cards, the process of linking citizens' Aadhaar number with EPIC cards may be considered after detailed discussions with all stakeholders and dispelling concerns around right to privacy. Meanwhile, the EC should remove any duplicate voter ID numbers in the electoral roll across States and ensure unique EPIC numbers.

Equally important, if not more, are the reforms needed in the campaign process. First, the EC should be authorised to revoke the 'Star Campaigner' status of a leader, in case of any serious violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), thereby depriving the party candidates of expenditure relief for their campaigns. Under Paragraph 16A of the Symbols order, the EC has the power to suspend or withdraw the recognition of a recognised political party for its failure to observe MCC or follow lawful directions of the Commission. Strict action under this provision against bigger parties would have a salutary effect in ensuring adherence to the MCC. Second, with respect to election expenditure, the law must be amended to explicitly provide that 'financial assistance' by a political party to its candidate should also be within the limits of election expenditure prescribed for a candidate. There should also be a ceiling on expenditure by political parties. Third, the Supreme Court direction to candidates as well as political parties to issue declarations about criminal antecedents, at least three times before election, in a widely circulated newspaper in the locality and in electronic media, should be strictly enforced. This would enable a discerning voter in exercising a well-informed choice.

The EC and various political parties should engage in a meaningful discussion on all these aspects so that the campaign and electoral processes instil confidence in voters at large.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil service aspirants at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Parliament and State legislature shall be vested in the EC.

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As regards the EVM and VVPAT related aspects, the sample size for the matching of EVM count and VVPAT slips should be decided in a scientific manner by dividing each State into large regions. In case of even a single error, VVPAT slips should be counted fully for the concerned region. This would instil statistically significant confidence in the counting process.

OTS scheme for govt. buildings extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP has introduced a One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for government buildings and public sector undertakings under its limits. This scheme will be effective till March 31, and aims to facilitate the clearance of property tax dues.

Under this scheme, all government buildings and PSUs can pay their property tax as per revised rates. For outstanding dues from 2019-20 onwards, property owners can avail OTS benefits by paying only the principal amount with zero interest and a nominal penalty of ₹100. BBMP has urged all eligible government entities to clear their pending property tax before the deadline. Failure to do so will result in double taxation from April 2025.

In the first week of March, the city's civic body was preparing to issue notices for the recovery of long-pending service charges from prominent government buildings, including Vidhana Soudha, which houses the State Secretariat and has outstanding dues of ₹6.3 crore, according to BBMP data. However, the extension of the OTS scheme now appears to be aimed at providing relief to government buildings.

Although, the BBMP has maintained that government buildings must pay service charges in place of property tax and other cesses applicable to private properties, many government institutions have not paid these since 2008, when the body was formed. These unpaid dues have since been accumulating, along with compounded interest and penalties, in the BBMP's financial records.

Decomposed body of missing constable found

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old police constable who was missing for the last one month was found dead in an abandoned City Armed Reserve quarters in Adugodi on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Mubarak Mujavar from Belagavi. Mujavar's highly decomposed body was found inside a room at the Adugodi police quarters on Monday morning after a foul smell emanated from the room.

A probe revealed that Mujavar's wife had gone to her native place, Athani in Belagavi, for delivery as the couple were expecting a child. Since then Mujavar was missing and his friend had filed a complaint with the police after noticing him neither attending work nor answering calls. The body was moved for autopsy. As of now, no foul play has been suspected and an unnatural death report has been filed. The police have recovered his phone and other materials from the scene of crime.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani ph. 104 for help)

Corrigendum

In the report on SBI home loans carried in these columns on March 14, the headline and text should have been that housing loans in Bengaluru city account for 65% of SBI Bengaluru Circle's real estate portfolio and not as published.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No. DGM-1/BSWML/Tend/12/24-25 Date:17/03/2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per KC-6 of standard bidders documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

SL No	Name of Works	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Mansoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Scientific Closure with Soil Capping of completed landfill site at Bayyappanahalli Sy. No. 80 (Phase-1) as per SWM rules-2016 and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Byatarayanapura Constituency (Call-2)	9000.00	11 Months	1,80,000.00
2	Appointment of PMC for the work of Bio remediation of landfill waste at Baiyappanahalli to avoid fire incidents and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Byatarayanapura Constituency (Call-2)	2000.00	9 Months	40,000.00

Calendar of Events:

1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: 25.03.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal.
2. Pre bid meeting: 26.03.2025 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore.
3. Last date for submission of the bids:02.04.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4. Date of opening of Technical bid on :03.04.2025 at 16.30 Hrs.
5. Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
2. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1
BSWML

DIPR/CP/5750/AKAR/2024-25

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 22.04.2025

Last date of EMD : 21.04.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical/Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 22.04.2025 (10.00 AM to 10.30 AM)** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **21.04.2025 - 5.00 pm.** **(₹. in lakhs)**

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets:	Total Dues	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1	**(1) M/s. Navadurga Sea Foods, (Regd and Administrative Office Address)** 1st Cross, No.11/2, R.V. Road, Pattabhiramaiah Street, Mavalli, Bengaluru-560004, **and also at :** Near Cosmo Club, No.1-3-18/20-1, Sathya Krishna Homes, Suryanarayanapuram, Bhimavaram West Godavari, Andrapradesh-534202. **(2) Mr. Adinarayana Setty. B (Partner and Guarantor)** C/o Krishnaiah Shetty. Y. S, No.685, 3rd Main Road, Raghavendra Block, Srinagar, Bengaluru-560050, **And also at :** No.948/949, 13th Main Road, Srinagar, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560050. **(3) Mr. Gudala Sri Hari Gopala Rao, (Partner and Guarantor)** No.7-47, Opp Raghava Rice Mill, P. P. Road, West Godavari, Veeravasaram, Andrapradesh-534245. **(4) Mr. Thyagaraj V R (Partner, Guarantor and Mortgagor), (5) Mrs. Saraswathi. B (Guarantor and Mortgagor)** W/o Mr. R. Bhaskar, **(6) Mr. Bhaskar. R (Guarantor And Mortgagor)** S/o Mr. R. Ramalingam, **(7) Mrs. Shantha. R (Guarantor And Mortgagor)** W/o Mr. Ramalingam, **(8) Mrs. Latha. T. G (Guarantor And Mortgagor),** W/o Mr. Thyagaraj. V. R, **(9) Mrs. Prema. R (Guarantor And Mortgagor), All are residing at:** No.12/91-2, 1st Main Road, New Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Srirampuram, Behind Devi Theatre, Bengaluru-560021. **(10) Mrs. Prema. R (Guarantor And Mortgagor)** W/o Mr. G. Ramesh, No.8/1, 1st Main Road, New Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Srirampuram, Bengaluru-560021.	All that part and parcel of the residentially converted vacant land bearing Sy. No 14/2 carved out of Sy No 14 measuring 32.5 guntas of Dasarahalli Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk duly converted for residential purposes vide Official memorandum bearing No. ALN SR (S.A) 78/95-96 dated 04.11.1995 issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, presently bearing BBMP Khata No 27/14/2 within the limits of BBMP Ward No 6, Thanisandra ,Bangalore belonging to Sri. V R Thyagaraj, Sri. R Bhaskar, Smt. Latha T G, Smt. Saraswathi, Smt. R Shantha and Smt. R Prema. Boundaries as follows: East: Site No- 41, 42,43 and 44 in Sy. No 13/2, Swimming Pool and Club House, West: Site No. 8, 9,10,11,12, and Road in Old Sy. No. - 14, New Sy. No. 14/1, North: Site No. 38, carved out of old Sy. No. 14, New Sy. No. 14/1, South: Remaining portion of Sy. No. 14 measuring 10 guntas Coordinates of the property. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude- 13.051932 Longitude- 77.613010**	**Rs. 167668615.75 as on date 13.03.2025 with further interest and cost thereon Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 2212.06 b) ₹. 221.21 c) ₹.1.00**	**17.04.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
2	**(1) Mr Y R Venugopal,** # 32, 2nd B Cross, Dassappa Graden Road, Maruthinagar, Shettihalli, Tumkur-572101. **(2) Mr. Rangashamaiah,** S/o Sanjeevaiah, # 32, 2nd B Cross, Dassappa Garden Road, Maruthinagar, Shettihalli, Tumkur-572101.	Industrial Converted Land having Sy. No.42/2 old Sy.No 9/B Block, measuring 2 acres situated at Pandithanahalli Village, Kasaba hobli, Tumkur-560070. and bounded on: East: Land in Sy.No 42/1 belongs to KV Nagesh and others, West : Devarayapatna Gadi and Other Land, North : Other Land, South : Road. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.33904, Longitude77.14659**	**Rs. 75820871.36 as on date 13.03.2025 with further interest and cost thereon Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 127.87 b) ₹. 12.79 c) ₹.1.00**	**17.04.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointmen t with Authorised Officer**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 15.03.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-TLAC-PC-GREAVES-2025-3 dt. 10.03.2025 (through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Action for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of SBC division fitted with DA sets of Greaves make, for a period of one year.	4,06,80,376.46/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 01.04.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Electrical Engineer/Chg/ Bengaluru
PUB/852/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertising and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

A) Description in brief : **1.** Rail Coach Restaurant: 17/03/2025 **2.** Catering & MPS stalls: 21/03/25, 24/03/25, 25/03/25, 26/03/25, 28/03/25 **3.** Parking & Pay and Use: 19/03/25, 21/03/25, 24/03/25, 28/03/25 **4.** Parcel: 21/03/25 **5.** Advertising, ATM & Misc: 21/03/25, 24/03/25, 26/03/25, 27/03/25, 28/03/25

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru
PUB/855/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **MRS. RAICHAL PRAMEELA** intends to purchase an immovable property described herein as schedule property originally belonging to Smt. Pramila by virtue of a Sale Deed executed in her favour on 23.04.1991 by **Sri S Sampangi & others** registered as Document no. 222/1991-92 Book I, Volume 3093 Pages 122-131 in the Office of Sub Registrar Shivajinagar, Bengaluru

My client is informed that the aforesaid Sale Deed was lost and hence an online complaint was filed with the police as per endorsement dated 15.03.2025 bearing Lost Report No. 1521941/2025.

My client is an Agreement Holder and is now intending to register a Sale Deed for the Schedule Property by creating a charge and obtaining a loan from State Bank of India & hence any person, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the Schedule Property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Site No. 20/2,** formed in Vannarpet, Opp. Infrant Jesus Church, Division No. 65, Bangalore (formerly property No. 20/2, Balaiah Naidu Street, Previously situated at **Jodi Sonnenahalli Village, 63rd Division, Civil Station, Bangalore)** coming under Ward No. 115 and bearing katha No. DA/W/115/KTR/179/14-15 - Property No. 20/2, PID No. 69-44-20/02, measuring East to West: **30 feet** and North to South: **40 feet,** totally measuring **1200 Sq feet** with the limits of BBMP and bounded on:

East by : Private Property, West by : Drain, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

Mr. MASOOD ALI KHAN MECCI
ADVOCATES
No.23-A, Ground Floor, HHS & HMS complex,Cubbonpet main Road, BANGALORE 560 002
M : 9845548279
Email : makmecci@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RECOVERY OFFICER-I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001.

DRC 5271/2007 in OA No. 196/2005

Between : The Haveri Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Haveri ...Certified Holder
And : Sha Pukraj Phoolchand and others ...Certified Debtors

DEMAND NOTICE

To,

1. **Sha Pukaraj Phoolchand**, A partnership firm Rep by its Partners Ambika Nivas, Bannada Mutt School Road, Haveri 581 110
2. **Sri Sha Devichand Shivalalji Jain,** Since deceased and rep By his Legal Heirs
   a. **Sri Sha Dayalal Devichand Jain**
   b. **Sha Pukraj Devichand Jain**, Residing at Haveri 581 110
3. **Sri Sha Phoolchand Devichand Jain**, Since deceased and rep by LR's
   a. **Smt Sundarabai P Jain,** Aged about 70 years, W/o Late Sha Phoolchand Devichand Jain
   b. **Sri Rakesh Kumar P Jain,** Aged about 42 Years, S/o Late Sha Phoolchand Devichand Jain (Both are residing at Haveri, 581 110)
4. **Sri Sha Dayalal Devichand Jain,** Ambika Nivas, Bannada Mutt School Road, Haveri 581 110
5. **Sri Sha Pukaraja Devichand Jain,** Ambika Nivas, Bannada Mutt School Road, Haveri 581 110
6. **Sri Sha Ganeshmal Devichand Jain**, Since deceased and rep by His LR's
   a. **Jayamala Sha Ganeshmal D Jain,** Aged about 52 years, W/ o Sri Sha Ganeshmal Devichand Jain
   b. **Sri Hemanth Sha Ganeshmal D Jain,** Aged about 27 years, S/o Sri Sha Ganeshmal Devichand Jain (Both are residing at Haveri, 581 110)
7. **Smt Nanda Bai W/o Lalith Kumar Jain,** Ambika Nivas, Bannada Mutt School Road, Haveri 581 110

Whereas Certificate No. DRC 5271/2007 in O.A. No 196/2005 dated 28.12.2007 has been forwarded by Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru to the undersigned for the recovery of debt amounting to Rs. 41,54,002/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Two only) (interest charged upto 28.12.2007) and further interest and the Presiding Officer had send to the undersigned the certified copy of Certificate under Rule 19 specifying that an amount of Rs. 41,54,002/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Two only) (interest charged upto 28.12.2007) and further interest is to be recovered along with interest and cost from the defendants/CDs.

You are hereby given notice that steps will be taken under all or any of the provisions of Section 25 of RDDFI Act 1993 read with II Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 to recover the said amount from you together with interest payable and the costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of warrants and other processes issues and all other proceedings taken for realizing the specified amount, unless the amount of Rs. 41,54,002/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Two only) (interest charged upto 28.12.2007) with future interest, costs and expenses incurred so far and the aforesaid is payable by you within 15 days from the date of service of this notice failing which the matter will be decided as per law in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 16.02.2024.

Sd/- Recovery Officer-1
DRT-1, BENGALURU

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961, read with RDDFI Act 1993 which is reproduced below.

16. Private alienation to be void in certain cases.-

(1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Tax Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule, any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No:GESCOM/SEE(Procurement)/EE/AEE/24-25/ 72718-23 Date:17.03.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP Portal mode only)

PC No-1432 : Manufacture and supply of 11 kV 400 Amps special Roaster GOS along with H Frame sets as per GESCOM Specifications. **Tender Amount: Rs. 237.12 Lakhs.** **Dates:** Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **19.03.2025,** Last Date of bid submission: **29.03.2025 @ 17:30 Hrs,** Opening of Technical Bid: **02.04.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs,** Opening of Price bid: **03.04.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs.**

Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents: For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement Section, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address : www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91-8046010000/8068948777 or e-mail address:support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Superintending Engineer El.,
Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1097/KSMC&A/2024-25

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/11/2024-25 Date: 17-03-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per KC-6 and KC-7 of standard bidders documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs	Duration (Including Mansoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Establishment of New landfill site at Mittiganahalli and Kannuru (Balance portion) and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Mahadevapura Constituency. Village development works in Mahadevapura constituency around Mandur legacy waste Bio-Mining site. (Call-2)	**9000.00**	**12 Months**	**1,80,000/-**
2	Appointment of PMC for the work of Development of Approach Roads to at Mittiganahalli and Kannuru Landfill surroundings in Mahadevapura Constituency (Call-2)	**5000.00**	**9 Months**	**1,00,000/-**
3	Appointment of PMC for the work of Establishment of New scientific landfill site in available quarry pit (Balance portion Phase-2) at BayyappanahalliSy. No. 80 and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Byatarayanapura Constituency. (Call-2)	**9000.00**	**11 Months**	**1,80,000/-**
4	Appointment of PMC for the work of Establishment and development of new landfill site at Baiyappanahalli Survey No. 80, Pit No. 2 of North side including O & M in Byatarayanapura Constituency. (Call-2)	**2500.00**	**6 Months**	**50,000/-**
5	Appointment of PMC for the work of Providing basic infrastructures and Development of villages around scientific landfills such as Srinivasapura, Sathanuru, Hosahalli, Madakepalya, Kannur, BandeBommasandra, Chikkagubbi, Kadusoppanahalli, Hosur Bande, Mittaganahalli and other surroudings villages in Byatarayanapura and Mahadevapura Constituency. (Call-2)	**2500.00**	**6 Months**	**50,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **25.03.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal. 2.** Pre bid meeting: **26.03.2025 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids: **02.04.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Technical bid on : **03.04.2025 at 16.30 Hrs. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender up0dates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
2. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

DIPR/CP/5751/
SSC/2024-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, Mrs. Sujatha Lakshmi.K, Wife of Immanuel.A, working in Army, No.261185W, Rank: Hav, residing at No.644, Rodger's Upstairs Qtrs, Marikuppam Post, K G F-563119 have changed my Date of Birth from 07-12-1984 to 07-12-1983 as per my affidavit dated 14-03-2025 duly signed by Thangaraj.S, Notary Public, K G F.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHILPA Gopal Nadager, D/O: Gopal Shrinivas Rao Nadager, R/O: F–306, Gangotri Saptagiri Pearl, 1st Main Maruti, LYT, Nagappa Blk, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560061, Have Changed My Name As Shilpa Nadager. Vide Afdvt Dtd on 14/03/2025

I ARSHITHA D/o Late Balakrishnan Nair A R/o Koroth Thervayal Nileshwar, Kasaragod, Kerala have changed my name to ARSHITHA K for all future purposes.

I, Rushikumar Prafulchandra Bhatt R/o 122 Embassy Meadows 8th Cross St Bed Layout Koramangala 4th Block bangalore have changed my minor daughter's name from Emilie Lila to Emilie Lila Bhatt for all purposes.

I, Rushikumar Prafulchandra Bhatt R/o 122 Embassy Meadows 8th Cross St Bed Layout Koramangala 4th Block bangalore have changed my minor son's name from Anshou Bhatt to Anshou Alex Bhatt for all purposes.

I, Karthik K Reddy S/O, M Krishnan R/o #29, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Nithin Bakery, Malleshpalya, Bangalore North, New Thippasandhra, Karnataka, Bangalore 560075 have changed my name to Karthik K.

I, PREMKUMAR., R/@ No. 13, 3rd Cross, Jyothi Nagar, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru- 560097, Karnataka India, have changed my name from Premkumar to V. Prem Kumar (i.e. Veerla Prem Kumar), vide affidavit dated: 17/03/2025, sworn before Notary Public, K. H. Jagadish, Bangalore. For all future purposes, I shall be known as V. Prem Kumar (Veerla Prem Kumar).

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Basavaraj Hulegiri S/o. Ningappa, Residing at H.No.-1-892-10-11, New Jewargi Road, Udaya Nagar, Gulbarga, District - Gulbarga, Karnataka, 585102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bassanna Hulegiri.

I, YOGARAJ Balakrishnan., R/@ No. 10, 3rd Cross, Chitra Layout, Attur, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064, Karnataka India, have changed my name from Yogaraj Balakrishnan to Yogaraj Balakrishna, vide affidavit dated: 17/03/2025, sworn before Notary Public, K. H. Jagadish, Bangalore. Henceforth, I shall be known as Yogaraj Balakrishna for all future purposes.

I, BADRUNNISA, W/o Saleem D, aged 54 years, r/at No.18/392, 4th Cross, Kogilu Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name as Shafinaz vide affidavit dtd 17.03.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

I, VINUTA Vidyadhar Shirashyad, R/at C/o Ravikiran, Flat 2C, 2nd Floor No.3, Shyam Mohan Apts, YV Annaiah Road, Yelechanahalli, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name from Vinuta Vidyadhar Shirashyad to Vinuta vide affidavit dated 17/03/2025 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, B'luru

I, SHAIK Ameer, S/o Late Abdul Azeez, aged 88 years, r/at No.24, 7th Cross, Annepalya, Bengaluru 560030 have changed my name as Shaik Anwar vide affidavit dtd 17.03.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Smt B.R. KAVITHA,** W/o Mr. P.B. Rangaswamaiah, aged about 34 years and **Mr. P.B. Rangaswamaiah,** aged about 39 years, both are residing at No. 429, 6th Main, Mahadeshwara Temple Road, Ranganathapura, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079 we hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **BHAVYA .R** to **MONISHA .R** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MONISHA .R** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30/05/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **M.K. DEVAKI** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BABITHA Naresh Kumar Jain, R/a Flat No.A103, N R Kaveri Manor, 1st Floor, A Block, Opp. Basavanagudi Police Station, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Babita Naresh Kumar Jain vide affidavit dt: 14.03.2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'lore.

REAL ESTATE

10 ACRES Mango Farm for sale in Tamilnadu. Escape to tranquility with this beautiful 10–acre mango farm located in Madarahalli, right off the Tirupattur main road, Just 12 km from Tirupathur and 30 km from Krishnagiri with Two–side road access for easy transportation @ 40 Lakhs per acre. Brokers excuse. For more details contact 9894486840, 9994387850.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Materials Management Division

e-Procurement–Tender is invited vide Tender No. MEE/J&S/T/e-03/25/MM for the Supply of Furniture items

For further details/ Corrigendum, if any Visit our website

www.chennaiport.gov.in/

www.gem.gov.in

Chief Mechanical Engineer

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Civil Engineering Department
No.1 Rajaji Salai, Chennai-1

Notice for e-Tender

Tender No. No.T/JDC/07/2025/E

Online bids are invited under two cover system for "Repair and Strengthening of existing Revetment behind Coastal Berth (approx.. length of 850m) at Chennai Port"

Estimated Cost Put to tender: Rs.4823.98 Lakhs (approx.) excl. GST.

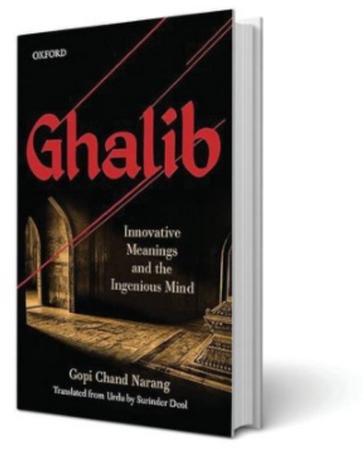
For details visit our website:

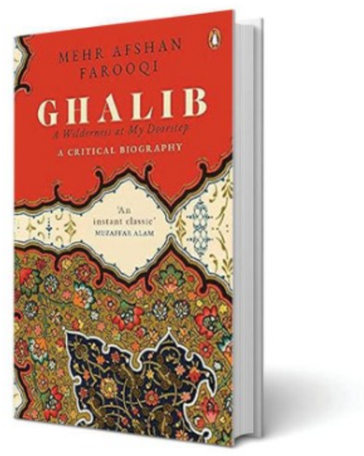
www.chennaiport.gov.in & http://eprocure.gov.in

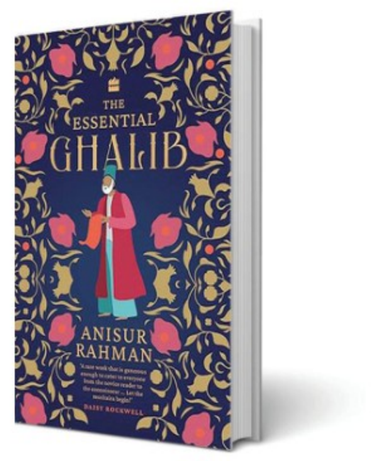
Chief Engineer

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ode to a legend: A view of the 'Ghalib Haveli' by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA







Ghalib lived the life of a poet, both a dream and a nightmare

No poetry recital or literary event is complete without narrating Ghalib's couplets. A reappraisal of the life and work of Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib who passed away more than 150 years ago continues with several writers penning biographies and keeping his words alive for the next generation

Ziya Us Salam

In 1856, the British rejected Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib. In 1947, India ousted the British. Eight years later in 1955, a tomb was built at his grave in New Delhi, some 86 years after Ghalib breathed his last in 1869. Drama? Maybe. Poetic justice? Certainly.

Ghalib's life was nothing but a poet's dream; also inevitably, a poet's nightmare. He wrote, people read. He recited, the connoisseurs listened and admired. One day he was arrested for gambling. Another day for organising games (cards etc.) at his home on Gali Qasim Jan in Shahjahanabad. That was in 1849. A year later, his life turned full circle when Ghalib was given the honour of putting together the history of the Mughals, or the Turks, as one would say. Surprisingly, for a man who pandered to his moods, Ghalib delivered. Within four years, his book had arrived.

Genius poet

It seems even more incredible when one realises that Ghalib's *Diwan*, first put together in 1816 as Nuskha-i-Bhopal, then completed in 1833, had to wait for eight years before reaching the readers. The ironies did not end there. Ghalib who often traded poetic insults with Zauq, the court poet of Bahadur Shah Zafar, ended up stepping into Zauq's shoes in 1853 as he was assigned the role of mentoring the Mughal emperor who had lots of love for poetry but limited skills to go with it.

Unsurprisingly, more than 150 years after he passed away, Ghalib continues to be amidst us. People adore him, talk about him, and write about him. No poetic soiree, no literary evening is complete without Ghalib just as a mention of Ghalib is impossible without his poetry. There have been books like *Ghalib: Innovative Meanings and the Ingenious Mind* by Gopi Chand Narang as also Mehr Afshan Farooqi's *Ghalib: A Wilderness at My Doorstep*. Both books have their own charm; Narang appealed to the head, Farooqi to the heart. Then there is the latest work by Anisur Rahman titled *The Essential Ghalib*. True to its name, it focuses on the essentials, starting off as a work of a longing heart, it settles down to the rhythm of the head. Rahman digs deep into the couplets of Ghalib, choosing some of the most popular ones while not shying away from enumerating on the lesser-known. It ends up being a book where the author paints a portrait of the poet with his pen.

Rahman, gifted and prolific as he is, is not the only one to be besotted with the genius of Ghalib in recent years. Not long ago, we had Narang who observed the crests and troughs of Ghalib's works, writing, "Persian had coloured Mirza's day-to-day speech and his power of imagination from the very beginning. The language was unfamiliar just like the thoughts it expressed. Mirza used Persian's specialities such as the use of infinitives and the word connectors liberally in his Urdu. There were some couplets where if you just changed one word, the whole verse would turn into a Persian couplet."

Farooqi used a different yardstick. Focusing on the ancient city of Banaras and the poet's inscrutable love for the place, Farooqi writes, quoting Ghalib, "Banaras is beyond words. Such cities are seldom created. I happened to be there at the height of my youth. If I were young now, I would go and live there and not return."

Life at a glance

Neither of the books attempt to bask in reflected glory. Now, in the fitness of things, comes Rahman's book with a warm commendation from no less a translator than Daisy Rockwell, who calls it "a rare work that is generous enough to cater to everyone from a novice reader to the connoisseur". A few pages into this work and one realises Rahman is blessed with a poetic soul, and a heart that drinks from a potion of love.

Rahman begins with an unflustered look at the notable years of Ghalib's life, right from the time he was born in 1797 in Agra to the time he married Umrao Begum at the age of 11, to the time he was arrested in 1841 for running a gaming house and again in 1847 for gambling. The same man was entrusted with writing the history of the Mughals by the last Mughal king, Bahadur Shah Zafar. Replete with such details, this is a historian's delight. Not many have ventured to present Ghalib's life at a glance. If the book had continued in the same vein, it would still have been worth the effort.

Rahman though chooses a difficult path, selecting couplets which are so well-known as to be part of a man's life, and the life of many a literary evening.

Between the lines

For instance, he recalls a couplet, *Puuchhte hain vo ke Ghalib kaun hai/Koi batlao ki ham batlaaein kyaa* (They ask Ghalib - Ghalib who? Let someone say, I've no clue." Rahman though goes on to explain it in a manner that's both beautiful and profound. He writes, "This apparently simple verse is Ghalib's introduction to his own self, both as a man and a poet, but only in a veiled manner. This is one of the finest examples of simplicity made complex and complexity made simple."

On the same lines, Rahman chooses, *"Ya-Rab woh na samjhein hain na samjhenge meri baat/de aur dil unko jo na de mujh ko zabaan aur* (O God! She hasn't got my intent, nor will ever do; Give her heart a little more, if not a tongue to me, to woo)." Rahman explains, "Lovers complain no end, and the fun of loving lies in listening to their complaints...Ghalib presents this act with a difference. His lover portrays his beloved as one who has not yet appreciated his pleas. So, he addresses God, who alone can make his love easier for him."

Between love and God, a poet and a critic, we get the essential Ghalib!

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Earthquakes have the literal ability to change the world around them, but it is not often appreciated really how much they can change. This quiz pays tribute to that ability

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In late 1811 and early 1812, the New Madrid earthquakes struck what is today the U.S. state of Missouri, shaking the ground to some degree across a record-setting 3 million sq. km. Native Americans in the area interpreted the magnitude to be an omen to support _____ in his resistance to the U.S.'s expansion. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

On November 1, 1755, an earthquake of magnitude 7.7-9 struck X, followed by a tsunami and then a firestorm set off by the quake toppling candles lit for All Saints' Day. The event was the dawn of modern seismology. Name X.

QUESTION 3

When it struck, this earthquake had a magnitude of 9, shifted the earth's axis of rotation by 10-25 cm, shortened the length of an earth day by 1.8 microseconds, moved a local island eastward by 2.4 m, and generated sound waves detected by a satellite in low-earth orbit. Name the quake.

QUESTION 4

Exactly 957 years ago, the first of two devastating earthquakes — the second on May 29 — struck the region today called West Asia. The first quake completely destroyed Aqaba in Jordan while the second left 15,000 people dead in _____. Fill in the blank with the name of a city then in Palestine and today in Israel.

QUESTION 5

The world's second-most powerful earthquake since 1900 occurred in 1964. With a magnitude of 9.2, it reshaped entire sections of the closest coastline, and set off underwater landslides. Where did it strike?

Visual question:
The 1976 X earthquake, shown above, left more than 2.4 lakh people dead. The toll revealed Chinese scientists' prediction of the nearby Y quake in 1975, which China had hailed as evidence of the "superiority" of socialism, to have been a fluke. Name X and Y.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The day after Pope Francis was elected, the Daily Mirror gave a headline which was a clever play on one of the most famous goals in the history of football. Name the player who scored that goal. **Ans: Diego Maradona**
2. The colour of the smoke that emerges from the Sistine Chapel once a Pope is elected. **Ans: White**
3. The papal conclave is the oldest historical method of electing the head of this state. **Ans: Vatican City**
4. In this town, hundreds of people have gathered at the tomb of this saint over the last few weeks to pray for Pope Francis. **Ans: St. Francis; Assisi**
5. A majority of Popes come from ___ . **Ans: Italy**
Visual: The depiction in this painting and the person who painted this. **Ans: The Last Judgment; Michelangelo**
Early Birds: Erfanally Oosmany| Tamal Biswas| Pranab Biswas| M. Suresh Kumar| Siddhartha Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"What's the difference between 'beach' and 'shore'?"

"A 'beach' is usually associated with the ocean. A 'shore,' on the other hand, is a more general word."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, any land that you find along the edge of rivers, lakes and oceans can be called a 'shore.' For example, I found lots of dead fish on the lake shore."

"Yes, but..."

"…. let me finish. You see, a 'beach' is any flat piece of land at the edge of the sea which is covered with sand and small stones."

"What about paper? Our Marina beach is full of that!"

"Paper isn't a requirement. Sand is! And if the land at the edge of the sea has no sand, but is full of rocks or something else, then it would be called a 'shore,' not a 'beach'."

"But can a 'beach' be called a 'shore'?"

"As I said earlier, 'shore' is a general word…."

"…. so a 'beach' can be called a 'shore'."

"Exactly!"

"Great! Anyways, as I was saying earlier…." '

"… it is incorrect to say 'anyways'."

"But I've heard many people using it."

"There is no word 'anyways.' It doesn't exist. It is always 'anyway.' For example, 'Anyway, we ended up eating bread'."

"Bread! That reminds me, do you have enough of bread and cheese for tomorrow's party?"

"Yes, we have enough bread and cheese."

"Enough bread and cheese! Not enough of bread and cheese?"

"No. The general rule is, when 'enough' is followed by a noun, then we don't use 'of'. For example, 'We have enough chairs for the party'."

"We did not have enough rain this year."

"That's true. We use, 'enough of' when it is followed by an article like 'the' or words like 'this' or 'that'. For example, I can either say, 'John didn't have enough of the small chairs' or 'John didn't have enough small chairs'."

"The shop didn't have enough of the blue bangles that my cousin wanted."

"Good example! I think I've had enough of this 'enough of'."

"But wait a minute! Is that the only rule for the use of 'enough of'?"

"No, it will do for the time being. We'll talk about it in detail some other time."

Published in The Hindu on October 10, 1995.

Word of the day

Chicane:
a bridge hand that is void of trumps; a movable barrier used in motor racing; sometimes placed before a dangerous corner to reduce speed as cars pass in single file; the use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them); defeat someone through trickery or deceit; raise trivial objections

Synonyms: guile, shenanigan, trickery, wile, cheat

Usage: *That man's car flew out of control and spun across the chicane.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/chicanepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʃɪˈkeɪn/, /ʧɪˈkeɪn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Ranya, Tarun ran Dubai-based company that smuggled gold to India, says DRI

Ranya had told the DRI that she was framed and that officials had taken her signature for the seizure report forcibly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Contrary to actor Ranya Rao's statement that she was just a mule carrying the gold consignment she was caught smuggling at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on March 3, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has found that she was running a company 'Vira Diamonds' in Dubai, which imported gold to Dubai and allegedly smuggled to India.

Ranya, in her statement to DRI, had reportedly claimed that she was pushed to become a mule for the gold consignment by an unidentified man who called her though VoIP calls and he later delivered the consignment at the Dubai International Airport. She wrote to the DRI chief claiming she was framed in the case and officials from the agency had taken her signature for the seizure report forcibly.

The DRI arrested actor Tarun Raju, grandson of a prominent hotelier in the city, on March 11, arraigning him as accused number 2 in the gold smuggling case. In his remand application to the court, the DRI reportedly said Ranya and Tarun were friends since college and the two started Vira Diamonds Trading LLC in Dubai with 50% stake for both parties. While Ranya was the sole investor, investing ₹8 lakh to ₹10 lakh from her HDFC bank account, Tarun was a working

Ranya Rao

partner and Ranya invested on his behalf. This company helped her acquire a resident card in Dubai and exempted her from visa to visit the United Arab Emirates, sources said. The company was reportedly importing gold to Dubai, as the UAE doesn't levy import duty on gold. Ranya used to buy gold from wholesale suppliers in Geneva and Bangkok, where she reportedly had big customers through her family connections, making payments in foreign currency in Dubai. After April 2024, gold was reportedly being imported from Geneva or Bangkok.

Though the company had claimed that they were selling imported gold in Dubai, it is now suspected that Ranya was smuggling it to India, making over 27 trips in the last one year. She was caught red-handed on one such trip to KIA on March 3, when she was carrying 14.2 kg of gold on her.

The remand application reportedly details an instance where the company was cheated of ₹1.7 core by not supplying gold. The DRI reportedly claimed that this payment of ₹1.7 crore was organised by Ranya through hawala channels from India to Dubai.

Sources said the DRI's remand application seeking custody of Tarun claimed that Ranya used to buy gold and make the purchase documents in his name from Dubai to Geneva. She also reportedly used to declare the gold in his name at Dubai Customs, as he had a U.S.A. passport and did not require a separate visa.

In Ranya's arrest memo, the DRI said the agency had recovered two Dubai customs declarations dated November 13, 2024, and December 20, 2024, from her residence on Lavelle Road. The documents showed that the company had declared that they intend to travel to Geneva with the said gold, but diverted and came to India.

Head to three new international destinations from KIA this summer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three new international routes from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will become operational this summer season.

The three destinations from Bengaluru are Krabi in Thailand, Hanoi in Vietnam and Hanimaadhoo in Maldives.

Indigo will be the first to commence operations on the new international routes as the airline will launch direct flights between Bengaluru and Krabi from March 30.

Bengaluru will become the second Indian city with a direct connection to Krabi which is a popular beach destination among Indian tourists following the recent launch of IndiGo's direct flight from Mumbai.

From May 1 onwards, Vietnam Airlines – the flag carrier of Vietnam – will launch direct services to Hanoi.

The airline will operate flights four times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Flight booking for this route has gone live on the airlines website.

The third international route is Hanimaadhoo in Maldives. Maldivian, the national airline of the Maldives, will launch its new flight services between Hanimaadhoo International Airport and Bengaluru on May 15. Maldivian will operate two weekly flights on this route, with departures scheduled every Sunday and Thursday. The airline said that booking has opened through all Maldivian sales channels, including their official website, mobile application, and ticketing offices. It added that the flight schedule is thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs of both leisure and business travellers, particularly during peak travel periods.

In addition, Vietjet will also direct flights to Ho Chi Minh City from Bengaluru from March 19.

Construction of balconies: RMP norms to prevail over bylaws

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The norms prescribed in the zonal regulations of the Revised Master Plan (RMP)-2015 will prevail over the norms stipulated in the building bylaw 2003 of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for construction of balconies in buildings, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Hence, the BBMP would be required to permit the construction of a balcony in accordance with regulation 3.11(iv) of the RMP-2015 without restricting the length of the balconies as has been limited under bylaw 14.3 of its building bylaw, the court said.

The court made it clear that the floor area of the balconies will have to be taken into consideration while calculating Floor Area Ratio as per the regulation of the RMP-2015 even though the BBMP bylaw excludes area of balcony from being included in the FAR.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda passed the order while disposing of separate petitions filed by city-based structural engineer Vineet Nair and M/s Felicity Adobe LLP, Bengaluru.

The petitioners had sought a direction for alignment of the BBMP's building bylaw in accordance with the provisions of the RMP-2015, framed under the provisions of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act while pointing out conflicts in norms on construction of balcony in buildings.

Orderly development

"...the KTCP Act contemplates that preparation of a master plan which is ultimately designed for orderly development, and the Act envisages providing for a detailed manner in which a planning area is required to be developed and the development within a planning area to be regulated. It is, therefore, obvious that the Regulations made under the KTCP Act would prevail over the building bylaw which, in essence, mirror the regulations and are framed so as to be in conformity with the zonal regulations," the court said.

Crompton

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Issued in the public interest by:
Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Limited

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 18
RISE 06:25 SET 18:30
RISE 21:44 SET 08:42

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 19
RISE 06:24 SET 18:30
RISE 22:34 SET 09:23

THURSDAY, MAR. 20
RISE 06:24 SET 18:30
RISE 23:27 SET 10:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	35	18
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm with uneasy afternoon. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 25.04.2025
Last date of EMD : 24.04.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **25.04.2025 at 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **24.04.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. Mr B N Nagesh Reddy S/o Late N Nanjunda Reddy** # 201, 2nd Floor, Pearl Garden Apartments 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Begur Road Bangalore-560068. **2. Mrs. Shobha S W/o B N Nagesh Reddy** # 201, 2nd floor, Pearl Garden Apartments 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Begur Road Bangalore-560068. **3. Mr. P Rajugowda S/o Papanna** 3 196, 1st Main Near Asiswarya Garments Begur Bangalore-560068.	Property Bearing site No. 137, Formed in Sy.No. 311/3, B B M P Khatha No. 3282/686/137, 5th Cross Road, Duo Heights Layout, Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Banagalore South Taluk, B B M P Ward No.192, Bangalore-560068. Boundaries of the property: **East :** Road **West :** Site No.147 & 148 **North :** Site No 136 **South :** Site No 138 **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.52588N Longitude- 77.37131E**	**Rs. 6,00,73,304.66** as on **14.03.2025** with further interest and cost there on	**a) ₹ 155.00 b) ₹ 15.50 c) ₹ 1.00**	**17.04.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 17.03.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Development Commissioner (Handlooms)
वस्त्र मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF TEXTILES Govt. of India
India Handloom
National Design Centre

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#MyProductmypride

BENGALURU साड़ी FESTIVAL

14th-20th MARCH 2025
11am to 8pm

Shubh Convention Centre
Kothnur Main Rd, Puttenahalli,
JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru, 560078

ENTRY FREE

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - K.R.Pura Division, NRI Layout Main Road, Near Indira Canteen, Kalkere, Bengaluru-560016.

No. EE/RI-K.R.Pura/TEND/03/2024-25 Date: 17.03.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure- K.R. Pura Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. amount put to tender	EMD
1	Construction of New Shoulder Drains, Lead off Drains, Culverts and Other emergency works in RI-K.R.Pura Division for the year 2024-2025.	**Rs. 48.40 lakhs**	**Rs. 97,000/-**

Perid of Completion : **4 months.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18.03.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 21.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs. in the above said Office. (3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **28.03.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **29.03.2025 at 16.30 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI - K.R. Pura Division, BBMP

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/09/24-25 **Date: 17.03.2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per KC-6 of standard bidders documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Mansoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Village development works in Yeshwanthapura constituency around Seegehalli, Kannahalli & Doddabidrakallu waste processing plants. Village development works in Anekal & Bengaluru South constituency around waste Chikkanagamangala waste processing plant. Village development works in Yeshwanthapura constituency around Subbarayanapalya, Lingadeeranahalli waste processing plants (Call-2)	**7500.00**	**12 Months**	**1,50,000.00**

Calender Of Events :
1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **25.03.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs.** in KPP Portal.
2. Pre bid meeting: **24.03.2025 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore.
3. Last date for submission of the bids: **01.04.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.**
4. Date of opening of Technical bid on : **02.04.2025 at 16.30 Hrs.**
5. Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

DIPR/CP/5752/Zen/2024-25 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML**

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
KOLAR

No.CMC/TECH/TENDER/CR/11/2024-25 Date:15.03.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Government of Karnataka KPPP portal only)

As per Karnataka Transparency in the Public procurement act 1999-2000 law of Act 2000 and under Standard Tender documents Rules KW-3 the undersigned invites tenders in Two cover system for Eligible PWD Civil Contractors through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** for the works detailed below. The tenderes may submit tenders for works given in the table through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

(1) Last date & time for submission of tender: **24.03.2025 hrs. 17.30**
(2) Date & time of opening Technical bids: **26.03.2025 hrs : 11.00 am**

Sl.	Name of work	Approximate Value (In Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs)	Period
1	**DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT37500** Development of CC Road, RCC Drain, Interlocking Pavers & Precast Slab Near Kolaramma Temple Road & Near Someshwara Temple Road in Kolar Cmc Limit.	70.75	1,19,000.00	3 Months

Sd/- President CMC Kolar | **Sd/-** Vice President CMC Kolar | **Sd/-** Standing committee Chirman CMC Kolar | **Sd/-** Municipal Commissioner CMC Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:530/KSMCA/2024-25

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Pandemonium in Assembly over CM's remarks on RSS

Speaker announces that he will expunge Siddaramaiah's comments and those of BJP members against Congress central leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly witnessed acrimonious scenes on Monday over certain remarks made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) during his reply to the motion of thanks to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's address to the State legislature.

Trouble began when the Chief Minister, while brushing aside the Opposition's allegations that the law and order situation had collapsed, made certain remarks against the RSS and its role with respect to law and order.

This angered the BJP members who questioned the need and propriety of making such allegations against the RSS in the Assembly. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok remarked: "Let the Chief Minister say these things against the RSS in public if he has courage, instead of making such allegations within the shelter of the House." BJP member C.N. Ashwath Narayan said it was not befitting of the dignity of the Chief Minister's position to make such allegations.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The BJP members urged Shivalinge Gowda, who was officiating on behalf of the Speaker, to expunge the remarks.

But he refused to do so on the grounds that they were not "unparliamentary". When they urged the Chief Minister to withdraw them, he stood his ground firmly, saying that he had neither made any unparliamentary remarks nor did he say anything false.

Following this, the BJP members hurled wild allegations against the Congress central leaders. This angered the ruling members who shot back.

Several Ministers, including Priyank Kharge, led the charge from the Congress side against the BJP.

The House plunged into pandemonium as a few members started hurling abuses besides indulging in sloganeering, forcing Mr. Gowda to adjourn for some time to restore order. However, the impasse continued even after the House met, resulting in one more short adjournment during which Speaker U.T. Khader held a conciliatory meeting with floor leaders.

> Let the Chief Minister say these things against the RSS in public if he has courage, instead of making such allegations within the shelter of the House
>
> **R. ASHOK,**
> Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly

When the House re-assembled, the Speaker announced that he would expunge all the controversial remarks.

Illegal recording

Earlier, the House witnessed one more controversial episode with the Congress members accusing a BJP member of illegally recording the proceedings through his mobile phone though such recording is prohibited in the House.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil even appealed to the Speaker to name the member who indulged in such an act and take an appropriate action against him.

Claiming that none from their side had indulged in video-recording, the BJP members launched a counter-attack by taking exception to a few Congress members bringing huge national flags inside the House during the protest with respect to the remarks over the RSS. They alleged that a few Congress members had disrespected the national flag by inappropriately crushing it instead of neatly folding after waving it as a mark of protest. They even demanded an inquiry by a retired High Court judge into the episode.

However, the issue ended there itself as the House went ahead with its day's agenda.

Congress, BJP members spar over tax devolution, fund allocation for development

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the political slugfest over devolution of Central funds to Karnataka under the NDA regime continued in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, the Congress and the BJP members sparred over release of funds for development works by the State government.

In his reply to the debate on Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's address to the joint session of the legislature, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Karnataka did not get a special grant of ₹5,495 crore that was mentioned in the interim report of the 15th Finance Commission.

The Centre denied ₹5,300 crore to the Upper Bhadra project, which was also mentioned in the 2023-24 Union Budget.

Though the State would pay ₹5 lakh crore to the Centre in taxes, it would receive only ₹50,000 crore (10%) in 2025-26, he said.

Countering the Chief Minister's remark, BJP members said the Central government spent a lot of funds for developing the railway network and Namma Metro in Bengaluru, expressways and highways, airports, housing, health insurance, minimum support price for various commodities, irrigation projects, and it had allotted five kg of rice to Karnataka for BPL cardholders.

On the Centre's alleged discrimination in devolution of tax funds to the State, C.N. Ashwath Narayana (BJP) said Bengaluru city contributes 65% of revenue to the State exchequer, but the government has not spent enough on its development.

The members also sparred over alleged diversion of funds from the Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal-Sub-Plan by the State government.

Even as the Chief Minister spoke at length about the successful implementation of the five guarantees, BJP members claimed that the government's borrowings increased and development had come to a standstill owing to the schemes.

Mr. Siddaramaiah admitted that the Centre has released ₹1,030 crore for four irrigation projects. However, he said that the statement by Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal (BJP) that the Centre had released ₹10,000 crore for irrigation projects "is totally untrue."

The House witnessed uproar when Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government had till February 2025 spent ₹76,509 crore on the five guarantees. The Congress won all three bypolls and the voters did not support the false promises of the BJP, he argued.

The BJP members countered by asking the Chief Minister why the guarantees did not work in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and the Congress was once again reduced to single-digit seats.

Resuming his reply in the post-lunch session, Mr. Siddaramaiah denied the allegations of the Opposition that State's finances were being mismanaged resulting in the shrinking of capital expenditure.

The Opposition members staged a walkout, expressing dissatisfaction over the Chief Minister's reply. The motion of thanks to the Governor's address was adopted by the Assembly through a voice vote.

SNIPPETS

Appeal to make deportation process simpler

Stating that deporting foreigners staying illegally in India was a cumbersome process currently, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that the State would appeal to the Centre to make the deportation process simple.

The Minister pointed out at the recent arrest of 20 Pakistan nationals. "After the arrest, we have to inform FRRO, which in turn informs the Centre. The respective embassies are informed before the deportation can take place. We have sought simplification of this procedure to enable deportation directly."

BJP, JD(S) members stage walkout over Home Minister's silence on 'love jihad'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid Home Minister G. Parameshwara arguing that the law and order situation in the State was good despite a shortage of police personnel and new challenges posed by cyber crime, the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) members on Monday staged a walkout from the Legislative Council expressing their unhappiness over the Minister's silence on alleged "love jihad" cases. What angered them was also his comparison of the law and order situation in Karnataka with BJP-ruled States in the North.

During his nearly two-hour reply to the House, the Home Minister compared crime figures of Karnataka with that of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Maharashtra, and argued that Karnataka was far better in terms of various crimes. He also indirectly pointed out that crime in Karnataka had gone up during the previous BJP regime.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara in the Legislative Council. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dr. Parameshwara also pointed out that the State had a vacancy of over 1,500 police sub-inspectors and about 20,000 constables. "We have requested the Finance Department to allow recruitment of about 600 PSIs."

The Opposition benches expressed unhappiness that the Minister did not delve into the issue of the alleged "love jihad", did not explain the arrest of BJP member C.T. Ravi during the Belagavi Winter Session, and took objection to Karnataka's crime chart being compared with Uttar Pradesh.

"What is the population of Uttar Pradesh? How can you compare our figures with theirs that has a history of crime?" asked Mr. Ravi, alleging that one community that has been behind attacks on police stations in Mysuru, Bengaluru, Hubballi, and Channagiri was being treated differently.

However, even before the Home Minister could clarify, Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy announced the walkout. Chairman M.K. Pranesh expressed displeasure over the walkout before the clarification.

'40% of cases in Whitefield are cybercrimes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While in Bengaluru nearly 30% of total crimes reported are cybercrimes, in Whitefield it is about 40%, said Home Minister G. Parameshwara. He said that about 40,000 personnel from the police and the judiciary have been trained in cyber crimes in the last two years.

BJP accuses Cong. of causing Ambedkar's defeat in LS polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Assembly saw noisy scenes when the BJP accused the Congress of spreading 'lies' about Dalit icon B.R. Ambedkar, getting him defeated in two Lok Sabha elections, and then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru campaigning against him.

Fund diversion

When Chief Minister Siddaramaiah highlighted the achievements of the government on implementation of guarantee schemes, the Opposition and the Congress members indulged in heated exchanges on alleged diversion of SC/ST funds for other schemes. BJP members said the Congress government insulted Ambedkar by 'diverting' funds for guarantee schemes.

RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge contested the claims of Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal and other BJP members by showing a letter written by Ambedkar to his acquaintance claiming that Hindu nationalist V.D. Savarkar was responsible for his defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Kharge challenged the BJP members to a debate on the issue, which the Opposition members agreed to.

In the midst of slogans and counter-slogans by the members, Speaker U.T. Khader said the debate would be held on March 21, the last day of the Budget session.

Govt. mulls rationalising posts, dividing liabilities of State-run varsities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of State-run universities reporting financial distress even to pay salaries and pensions, the State government is contemplating dividing the liabilities among the universities that have been created after bifurcation. Rationalisation of posts between universities is among the proposal before the government to fill vacancies in the universities.

"When the universities were bifurcated, no one thought about the liabilities and new universities did not carry any liabilities. Some bifurcated universities are doing well financially and the government is contemplating transferring some of the liabilities to the new universities," Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar told the Legislative Council in response to a question from BJP member S.V. Sankanur. He said that the government cannot support universities continuously.

The member had raised the issue of financial distress in universities and also the huge vacancies in teaching and non-teaching staff posts. "As much as 65% of teaching and 80% of non-teaching staff posts are vacant. Research work has come to a standstill" he said.

In response, the Minister acknowledged that there are 2,800 vacant teaching posts across universities. "There is a need to rationalise posts. Some of them have been created without approval of the Finance Department. We cannot fill all posts in one go. It will be filled in stages."

> There is a need to rationalise posts. Some of them have been created without approval of the Finance Department. We cannot fill all posts in one go. It will be filled in stages
>
> **M.C. SUDHAKAR,**
> Higher Education Minister

A Cabinet sub-committee is also looking to provide a comprehensive solution to the problems, including financial problems, that plague the universities, he said.

One of the reasons for financial distress, Dr. Sudhakar pointed out, was that earlier all universities were generating some income by offering distance education to students.

"However, after establishment of the Karnataka State Open University, the other universities lost out on the income. Now, we are discussing certain amendments to Karnataka State Universities Act to strengthen State-run universities."

Karnataka seeks to set up special court to deal with spurious drugs cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has sought the establishment of a special court to hear cases pertaining to the sale and the supply of spurious drugs and Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) drugs, besides proposing to introduce a "drug recall" policy in Karnataka.

"A special court has been sought to try such cases as they are not reaching its logical end in regular courts. The courts have not taken such cases seriously. For the manufacturer, sitting in court for six to eight hours is the only punishment," Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told the Legislative Council in response to a question from Congress member S. Ravi.

As many as 20 cases have been filed in the last three years over the supply of NSQ drugs in the State.

> The State is also communicating with the Centre's Drugs Control Department to address the issue of spurious drugs and NSQ drugs
>
> **DINESH GUNDU RAO,**
> Health Minister

Besides seeking the special court, the Minister said that the State government is coming out with the "drug recall" policy with regard to NSQ ones. He said the policy could be one of the ways to make drug manufacturers responsible for their products.

"The State is also communicating with the Centre's Drugs Control Department to address the issue of spurious drugs and NSQ drugs. Fear can be instilled in companies when there are examples of taking them to verge of closure through drug recall or higher fines," he said.

The Minister also expressed his dismay over the stay on transfers of doctors by the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT).

"Doctors who were on deputation at the Food Safety Department went to KAT and got their transfer orders stayed citing that the transfers came in the middle of the year. However, we will get the stay vacated and take them back," he said, in response to a question from Janata Dal (Secular) member T.A. Sharavana, who pointed out that there were 27 doctors at the department when their services were required in hospitals.

'1.74 lakh persons getting Yuva Nidhi benefits'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that Yuva Nidhi, the unemployment allowance for graduates and diploma holders, is a dynamic scheme where numbers changed frequently, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday said that a total of 1.74 lakh persons are receiving benefits currently. He said that the scheme could benefit 10 lakh students annually.

As against an allocation of ₹450 crore for about 5.5. lakh students, the Minister said that in two years 2.62 lakh students had applied, of which currently 1.74 lakh are getting the benefits.

His reply came in response to a question from BJP member D.S. Arun, who sought to know the reason for the lower number of beneficiaries than anticipated and alleged that candidates were unable to know if their application was accepted.

Providing data of the scheme, the Minister said 1.74 lakh candidates who are receiving unemployment allowance neither got a job nor could enrol for higher studies. "As many as 49,726 candidates have enrolled but have not completed the mandatory 180-day waiting period after their course to become eligible for the scheme. Manual verification for 16,648 candidates is pending."

While the income tax and GST data helped remove 331 candidates, the UVCMS portal for higher education helped disable benefits for about 20,000 students since they had enrolled for higher education.

Besides, through the monthly self-declaration by students, about 32,800 candidates opted out of the scheme, and 1,539 applications were rejected. As many as 32,594 candidates have neither said yes or no to be part of the scheme, he said.

Khandre: Expert panel studying elephant behaviour

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As human-elephant conflict cases in Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu have seen an increase in recent years, the State government is expecting a report from an expert committee on whether there are any behavioural changes among pachyderms over the years.

"An expert committee headed by honorary professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences in the Indian Institute of Science, Raman Sukumar, is studying the behavioural changes among elephants," Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre told the Legislative Council.

The Minister pointed out that at least 60 to 70 elephants had come out of forests in Hassan district alone, post the pandemic.

There is very little understanding and tolerance for snakes, says Gerry Martin

He talks about India's first serpentarium, why India is the world's snakebite capital and how this new space could help change the narrative around snakebite treatment in India

INTERVIEW

Gerry Martin

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Gerard "Gerry" Martin remembers the first snake he held when he was three or four: a red sand boa. "I can still see my fingers and that red sand boa in my hand," says the Hunsur-based herpetologist and conservationist, the founder trustee of the Liana Trust, which has recently set up India's first serpentarium focusing on research, snakebite management and conservation.

Breeding snakes in captivity "is doable, not rocket science," he says, as he offers a virtual tour of the serpentarium, which currently houses seven species of snakes – spectacled cobras, common kraits, Russel's vipers, saw-scaled vipers, two species of pit vipers (the Malabar pit viper and hump-nosed pit viper) and four king cobras – some of which have already laid eggs.

"What we have done here, which is different from pretty much every single venom production setup in the world, is we are trying to marry best practices in husbandry with best practices in venom production," he says, as I catch a glimpse of a massive enclosure housing king cobras, a miniature version of the dense, tropical forests in which these animals are usually found. "We're giving them naturalistic, as much as possible, bioactive enclosures to try and replicate their own space in the wild."

In the interview, Martin discusses his dreams for the serpentarium, why India is the world's snakebite capital and how this new space could help change the narrative around snakebite treatment in the country today.

A snake being researched at India's first serpentarium in Mysuru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Currently, snakebites are treated in India using a polyvalent antivenom developed against the big four snake species: the spectacled cobra, common krait, Russell's viper, and the saw-scaled viper. Can we talk briefly about its limitations, why we need to improve antivenom specificity and effectiveness, and how this new serpentarium can help?

Species diversity in snakes is much more than what we've traditionally thought. There is variation between species but also geographic variation within the species. So, the Russell's viper in Chennai and Russell's viper in Punjab have very different venoms. This does not necessarily mean that the antivenom will not work. But from the work that we've done so far, it does seem that the antivenom works to different degrees in different parts of the country, with it being almost ineffective in some places. So, we need not have a single national polyvalent antivenom but several regional ones.

Of course, a lot of legwork needs to be done before that. We must first figure out where the variations are and where the antivenom is least effective, and then we must have regional-specific spaces. This is speculation at the moment, but I estimate we will need at least seven or eight more units like this one in different parts of the country.

Gerry Martin

I'm hoping that in about 15 to 20 years, we won't need to have snakes in captivity, and we won't need venom. Alternate therapies are currently being developed, and hopefully, antibodies that can neutralise snakebite toxin could all be synthesised by then. What we need to do right now is figure out a good anti-venom for the next 15 years. This can save anywhere between six and nine lakh people, and we could also cut down the number of cases of morbidity where they have a permanent loss of life function.

Karnataka was the first state to declare snakebite as a notifiable disease. How does this impact how the snakebite issue is addressed in the state?

Amazingly, the Karnataka Health and Family Department has taken this initiative, going the extra mile before any other state did. That has given us a lot more data already. Unfortunately, people are latching onto the numbers and saying that snakebite is on the rise in the state. This is not true; it is just much better reported now.

We still have a long way to go to get good-quality data. But along with the Humane World for Animals India (formerly the Humane Society International/India) and the Karnataka Health and Family Department, we are working on training their staff on snake bite treatment and therapies, and they're doing a great job. We should have the state action plan for snakebite and envenomation out early next financial year.

Of course, many cracks need to be filled at the grassroots level, such as medical personnel skills needing to be upgraded. Fortunately, in South Karnataka, we have a comparatively good health system. While not without flaws, the department is hugely approachable, and we can make quite a difference. Once we have a better idea of the snakebite landscape, we can focus our efforts on so-and-so geographies and so-and-so aspects of snakebites, a lot of trench and leg work that needs to be done. I think that's something that we could get going as a state and as a country.

Venom being extracted from a snake.

India is often called the "snakebite capital of the world" because it accounts for roughly half of all global snakebite deaths. Are there any specific factors that are driving this number?

I think it is a combination of things. It is hard to speak of the reasons at a national level because they vary considerably from region to region. The Northeast, where people are much better at bushcraft because they are largely tribal, has a very different kind of snakebite problem compared to the average farmer in Mysore, who works in a heavily irrigated rice field with lots of grain and rodents.

Many different things come to my mind when I think about snakebites and rice fields here. For instance, you often only get electricity to water your fields at night, so you must go to the pump in the dark to do that stuff. The bunds, the embankments between the fields, are all riddled with rodents and have very low visibility of where you're stepping because of weeds. Those are great places for Russell's viper, the primary species involved with snakebite in that region. Similarly, if you go to northern Karnataka or even Maharashtra, there are many more cobra and krait bites. People sleeping out on the floor at night are getting bitten a lot. Cobra bites happen in places with much more firewood usage while people collect the wood.

There are so many variables at play: different crops, different levels of sanitation, whether you have your livestock attached to the house or not... I think the fundamental questions need to be this: Is there food for the snake, and do people's activities bring them close to snakes?

You could have a ton of snakes around and be safe, like in most Indian cities. I like to say, 'Snakes don't bite rich people.' You need to work with your hands to be at high risk unless you are one of the thousands of rescuers we have now, which, in my opinion, is a problem, too.

Snakes are vital to our urban landscapes, yet we are often very intolerant and afraid of them and have always been. Do you see this narrative changing in any way?

We're not tolerant of snakes at all. I believe that back in the day, we were more tolerant. I've seen an old lady sweep a cobra out of her house with one of those long ceiling brooms and then return to chaffing her grain. On the other hand, her grandson goes into orbit each time he sees the smallest snakes.

The media, too, has played a significant role in sensationalising snakes and showing how dangerous they are. So, there's very little understanding and tolerance for snakes. While our reflex now isn't to kill the snake, we just want to remove it. And the thing is, when you move a snake from one place to another, you're not only killing the snake but also affecting the ecosystem. Like crows, pigeons and sparrows, snakes like cobras, rat snakes, and checkered keelbacks are commensal species that are essential parts of our cityscapes. They do well around human filth, and that's why they're there in such high numbers.

'Muslim women's liberation cannot be boxed into a single narrative'

Activists Najma Nazeer and Ishrath Nissar reiterated that Muslim women's emancipation must be defined on their own terms, and not by external frameworks that fail to understand the intersection of culture, religion, and identity

Sutapa Dey
BENGALURU

It has often been criticised that the Western feminist lens tends to reduce Muslim women's freedom to the act of unveiling the hijab. Poet, activist and writer, Najma Nazeer, and educator and activist, Ishrath Nissar reiterated this at a discussion held by the Alternative Law Forum in connection with Women's History Month and asserted that Muslim women's emancipation must be defined on their own terms, not by external frameworks that fail to understand the intersection of culture, religion and identity.

Najma Nazeer (left)

Ishrath Nissar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The in-between space

"For some women, emancipation is wearing the hijab. Likewise, for others, it is wearing it without fear. For some, it might be education whereas others might take it as financial independence. Our liberation cannot be boxed into a single narrative," said Nazeer. The discussion brought together voices that challenge dominant narratives surrounding emancipation and shed light on the struggles, resilience and agency of Muslim women in India. Speaking about the barriers that Muslim women face, both the speaker emphasized that the exclusion of women from political, social and religious institutions is not accidental but is a systematic result of patriarchy, misinterpretation and Islamophobia.

"To be a Muslim woman in India is to constantly navigate between invisibility and hypervisibility," said Nazeer. Seconding this, Nissar highlighted that Muslim women have always been active participants in society but their contributions have been erased or co-opted. "Our fight is not just against the community, but also against the state which weaponizes our identity and denies us rights, education and political representation," she said.

She further added that liberation is undefined when access to basic rights is unequal and emphasised on the stereotypes imposed on Muslim women that often erase the diversity within the community. Nissar also highlighted the role of caste and class in shaping access to rights and the invisibility of Dalit and Bahujan Muslim women in mainstream feminist discourses.

Forms of resistance

The discussion also highlighted various forms of resistance deployed by Muslim women, in larger movements as well as through everyday acts of defiance. While Shaheen Bagh, where Muslim women led the protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), was a watershed moment, resistance does not always take the form of large protests, but often start at home, the speakers remarked.

"Every act that defies patriarchy, inside and outside our community, is a form of resistance," Nissar said. Nazeer spoke about the economic resistance, highlighting how Muslim women engage in financial independence as a way to assert their rights and identity.

Political representation

The lack of political representation of women in India, especially Muslim women, was yet another point of discussion. While political participation is one of the ways Muslim women negotiate their rights, barriers of gendered Islamophobia and internal misogyny makes it difficult.

"Only 1-2% of seats have been occupied by Muslim women, and most of them come from families with a political background," noted the speakers who called for intersectional solidarity. "We cannot fight alone. Muslim women's struggles are connected to Dalit, Bahujan, Adivasi and queer struggles."

" The more we divide, the weaker we become," Nissar said.

"We are not stories of suffering, but of power, of resistance and of survival. And we will continue to write our own history," Nazeer added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 18, 1975

30 Percent of Funds Spent on Khadi Going Waste

Bangalore, March 17: Nearly 30 percent of the money spent on khadi and village industries was going down the drain, Mr. P.K. Ganapathy, Financial Adviser to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay said here today. This was due to a lack of managerial and organisational talent among the persons engaged in the khadi programme.

Mr. Ganapathy was inaugurating a new six spindle charka unit set up by the Krupanidi Multipurpose Society and the Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board. He was glad that a new class of social workers was taking up the khadi programme. Only organisations which had taken up the khadi programme several years ago had registered success.

Virajpet Incident: CM Gives Details

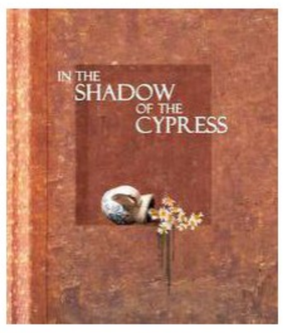
Bangalore, March 17: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, told the Legislative Council today that the police had arrested five persons, including a woman, in connection with abduction of two sisters from Virajpet taluk in Coorg district and said that cases had been filed against them. Making a statement on the issue raised by Mr. F.M. Khan (Cong,) and Mr. A.K. Subbaiah (JS), Mr. Urs said the case was before a magistrate's court in Virajpet.

Mr. Urs said that on March 10, outside the magistrate's court in Virajpet two groups clashed and the police lathi-charged them.

On the short road to the Oscars

Submissions for 15th Bengaluru International Short Film Festival — the only Oscar-accredited short film festival in India — are now open, inviting short filmmakers from across the world to send in their entries

Shilpa Anandraj



Quick cuts (Clockwise from far left) Victoria Warmerdam with the Oscar for *I'm Not A Robot*, poster of *In the Shadow of The Cypress*, Anand Varadaraj at the Kinoproba Film Festival 2024, directors of *In the Shadow of The Cypress*, Shirin Sohani and Hossein Molayemi at Oscars 2025, poster of *I'm Not A Robot*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

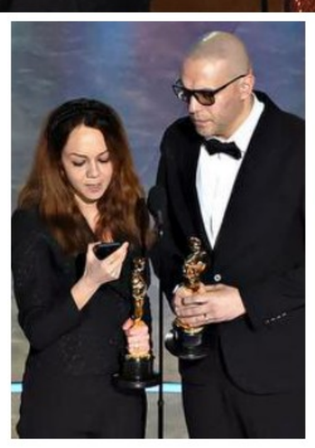
The Bengaluru International Short Film Festival 2025 (BISFF) has called for entries from across the world. This is BISFF's 15th edition and the annual event provides a platform for young, amateur filmmakers to not only showcase their work, but also receive feedback from industry experts. BISFF features segments such as international, Indian, regional, animation and non-competition. Entries close on April 30.

The festival that kickstarted in 2010, is the brainchild of Anand Varadaraj, who wears many hats – Artistic Director BISFF, actor-producer, secretary of Suchitra Film Society, Trustee of the Centre for Film and Drama, and mentor to many independent filmmakers and producers.

BISFF, says Anand, started off "more as a platform to showcase short films as we normally would end up showing them to just our family and friends. We were looking at a third eye, which would be objective and tell us how we needed to hone our skills. That was the core idea with which BISSF started and we screened just a handful of short films then."

About his association with the Suchitra Film Society, Anand says, "I went there because of my guru, Prakash Belawadi, when he was invited to be a part of Suchitra. Soon, I became a part of the film society and started watching a lot of world cinema, which was very different when it came to filmmaking. This impacted me in a huge way. Hence, I would say Suchitra has had a huge contribution in my life. BISFF also started in Suchitra and still continues there."

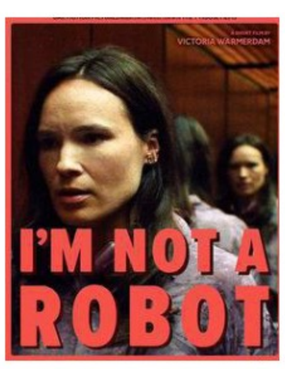
About growth in the short film medium, Anand says, it has been huge, which was specifically seen during the pandemic. "During the lockdown, BISFF also went virtual. We hardly expected a physical crowd of 2,000-3,000 at Suchitra and around 10,000 online. But on the very first day we got over 50,000 clicks. That was when we realised that BISFF had become a brand."

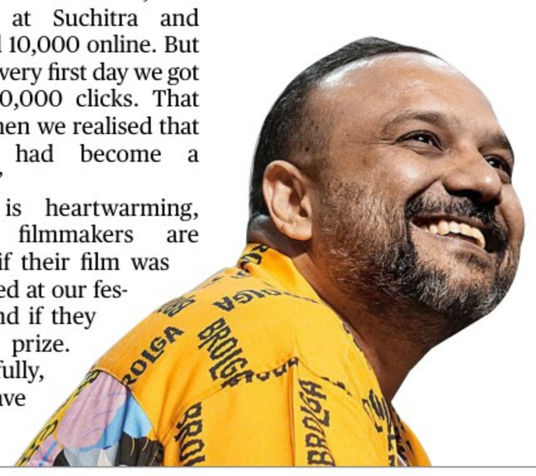


Red carpet rollout
In 2024, BISFF awarded the Best International film award to *I'm Not a Robot* , directed by Victoria Warmerdam. "We also recommended the movie to the Academy and this year (2025), *I'm Not A Robot* won an Oscar for the best short film in the Live Action Category," says Anand.
In the Shadow of the Cypress, which was awarded the first runner up at BISFF 2024, won the Oscar for Animation this year. "From this year, the Oscar academy has given us accreditation to also nominate Best Animation film at BISFF 2025, so this year will be a 'Celebration of Animation' at BISFF 2025. We were recently inducted into the *Short Film Conference Organisation*, the only festival from India to be part of the organisation."

"It is heartwarming, when filmmakers are asked if their film was screened at our festival and if they won a prize. Thankfully, we have maintained our quality. Despite certain pressures, it has been a fascinating journey," says Anand, over a call from Suchitra.

He believes OTT, "has left us with too much content to absorb, yet has provided a platform for films and series from countries such as Spain or vernacular Indian languages. OTT has become a door to the globe from where you can watch any kind of film, which was never possible before. Earlier, only a section of people could watch world cinema or foreign films, but today, anyone can access cinema in any language because of OTT."





The Bengaluru-based filmmaker continues about his love for cinema. "I have always been fascinated with cinema and even went on to do a film appreciation course with Prakash Belawadi in 2007. That is when I realised cinema is much more than what I understood. I still hang out with Prakash and even today I am learning a lot."

Anand was also in Russia as a jury member for the Kinoproba Film Festival 2024. "I was on the panel for fictional short films and was the only foreigner there. Initially, I was a hesitant to travel to Russia because of the war, but decided to make it anyway," says Anand, who shares that he watched about 18 short films, and adds there was one from Kolkata too. "It was an interesting experience as I got to see a lot of films from Russia, China and Kazakhstan, which we do not normally don't get to see. The majority of filmmakers at the festival were from Russia."

The memorable experience, according to Anand, was meeting filmmakers and animators. "I never knew Russia was into animation big time. That was a discovery. What touched my heart while I was there was how happy and grateful they were that someone had travelled to their country that was in the midst of such trying times."

For details about BISFF, visit www.bisff.in

CITYBEATS

Light a fire

ONGOING
Foo's Fiery Edit 2025 has launched 'Drop it like it's hot', to celebrate bold flavours, deep smokiness, and a generous dose of spice. There will be a mix of dishes such as sushi, dumplings, chicken under wraps, wok-tossed noodles, and more along with a range of cocktails.
The Fiery Edit Menu is available across all Foo outlets till April 15.

Bowl of bliss

ONGOING
Chinita is now serving a line-up of Baja-inspired dishes, packed with bold flavours. The Baja range includes fried chicken soft tacos, fried mushroom soft tacos, fried chicken burrito bowl and fried mushroom burrito bowl. Chocolate mousse makes it to the dessert list here.
At Chinita, Indiranagar, Whitefield, Koramangala and Bellandur. Call 7892306919.

Cambodia calling

MARCH 21, 22
BLR Brewing Co and Khmer Kitchen present an exclusive two-day collaboration inspired by Cambodia's rich flavours. Dig into a selection of artisanal dimsums that include fish amok (a Cambodian curry) or specials such as a Kampot pepper creme brulee.
At BLR Brewing Co, Whitefield, Tickets are priced at ₹699, available on Urbanaut and District.

A cut out of the ordinary

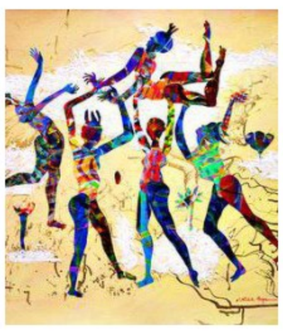
A solo exhibition, featuring Aditi Hazra's handpainted, paper cut works, titled *Interweave* is currently underway in the city.

According to a release from Gallery Time and Space, Aditi says, the works can be "interpreted to depict a playful dance, a ritualistic ceremony, a puppet show, or all of the above. The colourful and animated silhouettes, although seemingly expressionless, have so much energy and life within them as they weave themselves within each other, arm looping around arm, leg twisting against leg. They are fluid and light and are floating on the page, ready to spill out into the tangible world."

Aditi also describes her works as being, "rooted in oral traditions and the stories my parents, grandmothers, and relatives shared. My work captures the essence of transient moments through intricate paper compositions."

The artist draws her inspiration from "Indian and Japanese philosophies of impermanence, reflecting themes of renewal and the passage of time".

Aditi works with cold-press paper and natural papers such as Thai mulberry, Kozo, and Nepalese Lokta.



The figure cut-outs are "inspired by dance, ritualistic gestures, and postures that convey visual storytelling", which she states are layered and arranged to "suggest movement, creating a narrative even while remaining static".

"These elements are layered and arranged to suggest movement, creating a narrative even while remaining static. The backgrounds are influenced by river maps and bare tree branches, symbolising the journeys or phases in life."

Interweave is on at the Gallery Time and Space, Lavelle Road, till March 22. Call 7760394808 for details.

EATING OUT

Anagha Maareesha

An ode to Mexican cantinas

Comal, pronounced komaal, is the Spanish word for a griddle or *tawa*. The humble utensil is where Bengaluru's new Mexican restaurant derives its name.

Chef Varun Pereira and entrepreneur Pratheek Reddy started this venture after a trip to Mexico, inspired by its street food culture. The intimate 41-seater dining space is buzzing as I walk in on a weekday afternoon. Reservations here are hard to get as the place has been the talk of the town.

Comal is located close to the Trinity Metro Station, but there is no valet parking, so keep that in mind. The decor is inspired by the culture of Mexico. The furniture and art are rustic and industrial, with pops of colour and quirky tiles. I see calaveras, the skull motif from the Day of the Dead celebrations, all across the space. The centrepiece of the restaurant is its open kitchen where chefs are busy whipping up dishes. The tables and the handful of bar seats, surround the kitchen.

There is no Tex Mex here. At Comal, the menu is authentic Mexican. As we take a seat, Pratheek tells us the story of the duo's trip to Mexico where they decided to open a restaurant in the style of a Mexican cantina. Cantinas are the heart of the community in rural Mexico, where people get together to eat, drink and play games. The food is simple, and ingredients are the focus.

Chipping in
We have to begin our meal with a staple: chips and guac. The in-house guacamole is fresh and flavourful, and is served with corn and plantain chips. These nibbles pair perfectly well with my horchata – a traditional drink made of rice, condensed milk, vanilla, and a healthy dusting of cinnamon on top. It is light and refreshing.

On the menu are platos chicos (small plates), tacos, ensaladas (salads) and platos grandes (large plates). We get an assortment of small plates. Flautas are rolled up tortillas stuffed with various fillings, the slow cooked jackfruit one I try is delicious. The jackfruit is paired with pinto beans, salsa, and cheese.

Next, I try an esquites, a street-style corn salad. The corn is topped with smoked mushrooms, queso fresco and tajin. It is creamy and spicy. We also order the more experimental birria consomme, served with lamb neck and ramen noodles. Birria is a Mexican style broth that has deep flavours of dried chilies and lamb. Here the broth is served in a bowl with ramen noodles. I am not a fan of the pairing although the broth and noodles are delicious. We try the CDMX fried chicken, which is crisp and juicy, and I love the banana hot sauce it is served with.

Comal
Hits: Pescado a la talla (whole roasted fish)
Misses: Birria consommé with lamb and ramen noodles
Cost for two: *₹2,500 plus taxes*

Getting corny
The tortillas at Comal are made of masa flour, a dough made from corn but distinct from cornflour. The maize undergoes a process called nixtamalization, that involves cooking the maize with limewater, giving the tortillas a distinct taste and making them easier to digest.

We try many types of tacos, and the Baja style fish tempura tacos are the winner. The tortilla is earthy and nutty, and the pickled salsa bruja complements the batter fried fish well.

For mains we choose pescado a la talla, a whole roasted fish. The white sea bass is marinated with salsa roja, and salsa verde, giving it a nice red and green hue. Served on a bed of pickled green beans or escabeche, this dish is the highlight of our meal.

We ended with churros, of course, served with a velvety and decadent chocolate sauce.

Authentic Mexican flavours might be new to some Indian diners, as we are more familiar with cheesy and spicy Mexican food. But for a more homely approach to the cuisine, Comal delivers.

₹2,500 plus taxes for two. At MG Road. For details, call 8123240555

Say ole The offerings at Comal focus on the ingredients. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Ordinance on MFIs not applicable to hire purchase'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday clarified that the recently promulgated Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, does not traverse into the realm of secured transactions of hire purchase undertaken by the regulated entities like members of hire purchase association.

Also, the court made it clear that the Ordinance "carves out a protective shield specifically for those trapped in the labyrinth or unsecured microfinance loans extended without collateral to those having household annual income of ₹3 lakh or less", and it "is applicable only to microfinance lending institutions for protection of borrowers who are from the vulnerable sections of the society," among others.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while dismissing a petition filed by the Karnataka Hire Purchase Association, which had questioned the Ordinance, promulgated to protect defaulters from harassment by recovery agents from unlicensed and unregistered microfinance institutions (MFIs).

For social justice

"The Ordinance has taken birth from the womb of social justice, it nowhere depicts arbitrariness," the court said, while terming the association's apprehension as "imaginary" as the hire purchase is not covered under the new Ordinance, which applies only to microfinances.

The petitioner-association had contended that definitions in the Ordinance are so ambiguous that they would take away anybody's right under different statutes, as all hypothecations or mortgages are to be released from the date of promulgation of the Ordinance.

As the definition of microfinance institution or borrower or lending agency is not defined in the Ordinance and the association is mainly concerned with this aspect, the court relied on a circular, having statutory force, issued in 2022 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) defining microfinance loan, to clarify that hire purchase loan agreements are not covered under the Ordinance.

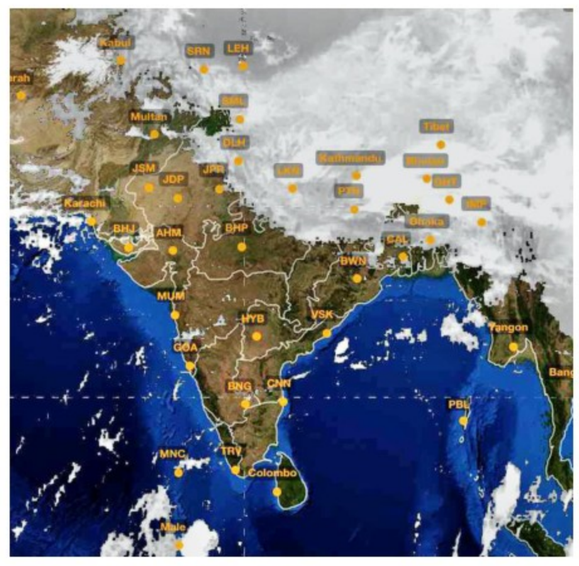
The court pointed out that RBI defines microfinance loan as a collateral-free one given to a household having annual household income up to ₹3 lakh or less; without collateral and not to be linked with a lien on the deposit account of the borrower. Even the State's Advocate General has accepted that RBI's circular on microfinance loan could be relied on to address the issue raised by the association.

Pointing out that the parameters laid down by the apex court to declare an Ordinance to be arbitrary exists in the present case, the court said that "the thread of reasonableness runs through the object of the Ordinance."

The Ordinance, the court said, "conceived in response to the anguished cries of the vulnerable - farmers, women workers, marginalised groups -- *inter alia* seeks to rescue them from usurious moneylenders and micro finance entities, who as public knowledge and legislative record bear testament, have wielded unconscionable recovery methods, often driving the debtors from buoyancy of hope, to the abyss of despair and death."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds/lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya. Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Hot and humid conditions likely at isolated places over coastal Gujarat, Konkan & Goa and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.6	33.5	22.8	Kozhikode	46	35.4	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	36.9	19.1	Kurnool	—	41.3	23.6
Aizawl	—	33.9	16.8	Lucknow	1.8	33.1	19.0
Allahabad	—	35.8	19.7	Madurai	—	37.0	25.6
Bengaluru	—	35.3	23.2	Mangaluru	—	33.2	25.4
Bhopal	—	32.2	18.0	Mumbai	—	34.4	23.2
Bhubaneswar	—	36.7	24.2	Mysuru	—	34.0	18.3
Chandigarh	—	29.4	13.2	New Delhi	—	29.2	16.8
Chennai	—	33.5	27.0	Patna	—	34.6	23.8
Coimbatore	—	36.8	24.8	Port Blair	—	32.0	25.0
Dehradun	—	27.7	13.0	Puducherry	—	33.7	25.6
Gangtok	5	23.5	12.2	Pune	—	39.5	23.9
Goa	—	35.0	25.0	Raipur	—	39.6	26.2
Guwahati	0.5	36.4	17.6	Ranchi	—	33.6	20.6
Hubballi	—	38.0	21.0	Shillong	—	25.1	12.7
Hyderabad	—	38.6	21.6	Shimla	—	21.2	8.6
Imphal	—	28.7	22.2	Srinagar	—	16.6	3.8
Jaipur	—	30.9	19.4	Thiruvananthapuram	3	35.2	25.6
Kochi	1	33.0	25.8	Tiruchi	—	36.7	25.6
Kohima	—	26.7	14.5	Vijayawada	—	37.4	23.8
Kolkata	0.1	35.1	25.7	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..18	23	... 108	94	
Bengaluru	.22	..40	38	... 134	99	
Chennai	.15	..13	59	 17	41	
Delhi	.17	..61	72	... 124	...134	
Hyderabad	...6	101	..9	... 155	...105	
Kolkata	...3	..18	20	 93	95	
Lucknow	...9	..44	65	 71	...105	
Mumbai	..—	..64	24	... 108	...107	
Pune	.14	109	18	... 135	...120	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..48	35	 35	93	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 318 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Manjunath takes charge as KPYCC president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.S. Manjunath took oath as president of the Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (KPYCC), at a function in Bengaluru on Monday. KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and office-bearers of the All-India Youth Congress attended the function.

Former All-India Youth Congress president B. V. Srinivas was present.

Mr. Manjunath, who served as the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) State chief twice, succeeds Mohammed Haris Nalapad as the Youth Congress chief.

Munambam issue: Panel's appointment quashed

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday quashed the State government's order appointing the Justice C.N. Ramachandran Nair commission to recommend steps to protect the rights of families occupying 404 acres of land at Munambam in Ernakulam district as the State Waqf Board has staked claim to the property.

Allowing writ petitions filed by the Kerala Waqf Land Samrakshana Vedi and others challenging the appointment, Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas observed that the government had acted mechanically without proper application of mind in appointing the commission.

Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeeve said the State government would approach a Division Bench of the High Court against the single judge's order. The government is bound to protect the interests of the residents, he said. The land was transferred as Waqf to an educational institution in Kozhikode in 1950.

The 600-plus families of the descendants of those who purchased the land from the institution face the threat of eviction.

The court said the government had not considered the significance of the findings of the Waqf Board, the provisions of the Waqf Act, the report of an earlier commission of inquiry, and the pending proceedings challenging the Waqf Board decision before the Waqf Tribunal.

Referring to the submission of the government that the appointment of the commission was necessitated by agitations, the court observed there was no reference in the order about any agitation or protest.

"As the issue is still pending before the Waqf Tribunal, even if the dispute creates any issues of public order, the recourse to the Provisions of the Commission of Inquiry Act could not have been resorted to at this stage," it said.

Associate of gangster arrested in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Central Crime Branch personnel of Mangaluru City Police arrested Abdul Asir with aliases such as Saddu, Saadu, and Maya, 32, who is said to be an associate of gangster Kali Yogesh in Mangaluru on Monday.

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal in a release here said Asir, who was an accused in the Rajdhani Jewellers shootout case of Puttur, had been at large after getting enlarged on bail for the last nine years.

He was an associate of absconding underworld gangster Kali Yogesh, the Commissioner said.

Acting on the information that Asir, resident of Mogral in Kasaragod was arriving at Mangaluru, attempting to sell narcotics near Nanthoor, the CCB personnel arrested him along with 53 gm MDMA worth ₹5 lakh. Asir faces cases of murder, POCSO, theft etc., in police stations of Kasaragod district and has warrant against him, Mr. Agrawal said.

CCB personnel led by Inspector K.M. Rafique and comprising PSIs Sharanappa Bhandary, M.V. Sudeep and Narendra, ASIs K.V. Mohan, Rama Poojary, Sheenappa, Sujan Shetty and others arrested Asir under directions from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime and Traffic) K. Ravishankar and Assistant C.P. Manoj Kumar Naik.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ & ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ – ಕಾರವಾರ.
E-mail: dhoukannada@gmail.com Phone: 08382-226339
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ(1)/14/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13/03/2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2025–26ನೇ ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಾಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉ.ಕ., ಕಾರವಾರ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ / ಎಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ / ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಷಿಯನ್/ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ– ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು: (1) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 2% ರೂ. 6,33,205/– (2) ಇ– ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಆರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–03–2025 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–04–2025 (4) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–04–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–04–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 (6)ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.3,16,00,000/–

ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜೆಯೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ.
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/995/24-25 dt. 17.03.2025

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. MESCOM-GMAHOPER/19/2021-GM ADM HR - I/2401/2025 Date: 17.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal Mode Only)

Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites bid vide Enquiry No. MESCOM/2024-25/SE0126 for implementation of Group Personal Insurance to all its Employees /Officers from 2025-26.

The Bids will be received through e-procurement portal only. The detailed tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ on or after 18.03.2025** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

DIPR / MNG / 1611/ MPL /24-25
Sd/- General Manager (A&HRD) (I/c)
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA
Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department
Office of the Project Director, State Program Management Unit (SPMU),
#1/1, 2nd Floor, K.S.F.C. Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road,
Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No. ABHY/SPMU/PROC/35/2024-25 Date: 17.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICAITON
(Through KPP Portal only)

SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojana, invites tender from eligible bidders in two cover system through KPP Portal for **"Short Term Tender for providing SPMU & DPMU Experts and supporting staff manpower service to Atal Bhujal Yojana in the State of Karnataka"**

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The tender document can be downloaded through KPP Portal from **18.03.2025** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is as mentioned in tender document.

Further details can be obtained from the office hours from **10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority,
SPMU, Atal Jal, Karnataka.
DIPR/CP/RO5747/AAPL/2024-25

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore – 560 001.
Ph: 080- 25586550 Email: info@ksicsilk.com
No: KSIC/PD/SB, SC, TB, MSB, MKB & SCC-01/2024-25 Date: 13.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from manufacturers for Printing & Supply of below detailed Packaging Boxes for KSIC-Reshmalaya Godown, Bengaluru:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Qty. (Nos)
1.	Saree Box+Care Card+Saree Cloth Case	1,000
2.	Scarf Box+Care Card	500
3.	Tie+Pocket Square Box	500
4.	Men's Shirt Boxes+Care Card+Clothing Wrapper	500
5.	Men's Kurtha Boxes+Care Card+Clothing Wrapper	500
6.	Stole Box+Care Card	200

Tender documents, details of the Notification, schedule, terms & conditions can be downloaded from website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for uploading the tender along with **EMD of Rs.20,000/-** through KPP Portal is **17.04.2025 upto 3.00 P.M.** The Technical Bids will be opened on **19.04.2025 at 03:30 P.M**. Further details can be had from office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal help desk - 080-46010000 / 080-68948777.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)
DIPR/CP/5655/MAA/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 43/2024–25/3875–78 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–03–2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054–ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ – ಸುಧಾರಣೆ (ಅಪೆಂಡಿಕ್ಸ್–ಇ) ಯಡಿಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 19682) ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 335.35 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–03–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ.

Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222943, E-Mail : spdivision@gmail.com

Short-term Tender Notification (Two cover system)

IFT No. 45/2024-25 Date: 15.03.2025

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as Per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account **5054-04-337-0-01- 154-MDR IMPROVEMENTS, Improvement of Bhadravathi-Holehonnuru Road (from Kagekodamagge) to Guddadaneralakere via Hosuru,Thippalapura, Arlihalli, Basalikatte, Siddapura, Raddy camp, Siddaramatti. chainage 1.0 to 2.0km and 3.0 to 7.0km (working chainage ch1.0 to 2.04km 3.0 to 3.5km and 3.85 to 6.44km) in Bhadravathi taluk PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT20159 & under head of account 4059-Building Constructions, CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL 6 CLASS ROOMS IN GOVERMENT PU COLLEGE AT BHADRAVATHI TQ SHIMOGA DISTRICT PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT19165 for Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs.394.56 Lakhs, Minimum Amount put to tender is. Rs.233.38 Lakhs & Maximum EMD amount is Rs.5.92 lakhs & Minimum EMD amount is Rs.3.50 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 11 Months including Monsoon.**

The tenderers may submit tenders through KPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from 15-03-2025 to 01-04-2025 Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 01-04-2025 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opened on 02-04-2025 at 05.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after 03-04-2025 Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

DIPR/SMG/No.121-03 zenkar/2024-25
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
PWD Special Division, Shimoga.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor,
Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2, 3/AE-2,4 & 8/TND/2024-25/3993 Date:17.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through KPP portal for the following works. Description of works: **(1) Construction of 50 Bedded MCH Hospital at Athani in Belagavi District and Construction of Lower Ground Floor (Basement) for 50 Bedded MCH Hospital at Athani in Belagavi District (Package Work) under the Head of Account NHM.** Approx.Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1580 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 15.80 Lakhs** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **15 Months. (2) Construction of 50 Bedded MCH Hospital at Mudhol in Bagalkote District under the Head of Account NHM.** Approx.Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1414.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 15.00 Lakhs** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **15 Months. (3) Repairs & Renovation to 250 Bedded District Hospital Gadag District under the Head of Account Medical Education (Deposit Contribution).** Approx.Amount put to tender: **Rs. 290.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4.40 Lakhs** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **6 Months. (4) Reconstruction of 550 Bedded Medical College Hospital Block-II Project in Ballari Taluk, Ballari District under the Head of Account: KMERC Funds.** Approx.Amount put to tender: **Rs. 10328.41 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.103.29Lakhs** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **18 Months. Calendar of Events:** Last date for receipt of tenders: **16.04.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids):**17.04.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE:1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for post-ponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com
No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/AC/20/2024-25/CALL-4 Dated: 15-03-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders is invited for interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for **Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Split / Duct / Centralized Air Conditioners Installed in Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, Govt. HSIS Gosha Hospital & Shivajinagar Charaka Super Specialty Hospitals attached to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru.**

1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document is **from 15-03-2025. 2)** Last Date for Tender Queries: **19-03-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of e-Tender in e-Procurement Portal: **24-03-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **26-03-2025 at 10.30 AM. 5)** Last Date of Site Inspection: **24-03-2025 upto 4.00 PM.**

For further details search in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and if any further details are required in this regard. Please contact the Director Cum Dean / Assistant Administrator of this institute during working days.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean
SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/5732/Adverto/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that Mrs. Bhagyalakshmi, W/o. Sri. Prabhakar Reddy, the Landowner of the Property bearing Sy. No. 1/7, measuring to an extent 13.04 Guntas, situated at Chikkanayakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru, holds a registered Exchange Deed dated 09.06.2023, Doc. No. INR-1-03620-2023-24 of Book I, stored in C.D. No INRD1367 and Easement and Right of Way Agreement dated 29.06.2024, Doc. No. INR-1-03273-2024-25, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Indiranagar), Bangalore, for the aforesaid property which is bounded by East-Road, West-Sy No. 1/1, North-Sy No. 2, South-Sy No. 1/6.

The aforementioned documents have been lost/misplaced. The said landowner has initiated the process of obtaining a replacement of the said documents with certified copies. Any objections, claims, or information regarding the lost documents should be forwarded to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this publication.

Take notice that failure to receive any objections or claims within the stipulated period will result in the replacement of the lost documents with certified copies without further reference.

Yogalakshmi S, Advocate
No. 20/7, 3rd floor, Kadubeesanahalli,
Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru- 560103
Mob No. 9980801459

Recipe for failure

The U.S. should engage with the Houthis instead of bombing Yemen

Donald Trump came to power with a promise to shut down the wars in Ukraine and West Asia. But in less than two months, Mr. Trump, like most of his predecessors, started bombing another country. This time it is Yemen, one of West Asia's most impoverished countries. Trump administration officials say the "pre-emptive" strike, targeting the Ansar Allah (better known as the Houthis), was to prevent Shia militants from attacking the shipping lanes of the Red Sea. The targets: Houthi missile launchers and the homes of the movement's leaders in Sana'a, Yemen's capital, and Sa'dah, the mountainous base of the rebels. "The minute the Houthis say, 'We'll stop shooting at your ships', we'll stop shooting at your drones," said U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, indicating a long-drawn campaign. The Houthis have said that at least 53 people including five children have been killed, and vowed to meet "escalation with escalation". On Sunday, they launched ballistic and cruise missiles and drones to target aircraft carrier *USS Harry S. Truman* and other warships in the region, according to Yemen state TV.

The Houthis, who captured Sana'a in 2014, "declared war against Israel" in 2023 in solidarity with the Palestinians, after Israel launched the war on Gaza, following the October 7 Hamas attack. Using missiles and drones, the Houthis have attacked over 100 commercial vessels in the Red Sea. There was a lull in the Houthi attacks after the Israel-Hamas ceasefire came into force on January 19. The U.S.'s latest strike has come as the Houthis were reportedly planning a resumption of attacks on Israeli vessels for violating the ceasefire agreement. But Mr. Trump wants to send a bigger message to the Houthis' backers – Iran. Earlier this month, he had reached out to Iran to discuss its nuclear programme, an offer Tehran has not taken yet. By launching a massive air strike against the Houthis, one of the strongest members of the Iran-backed resistance network, Mr. Trump is unmistakably telling the Iranians that he is not hesitant to use force. But Mr. Trump is also stepping into a strategic abyss. The Houthis are not just a ragtag militia. They are the state in half of Yemen. They have survived seven years of relentless Saudi bombing. The Biden administration along with its European allies also carried out dozens of strikes, while Israel launched at least four massive strikes. But none of these attacks blunted their fire power. Mr. Trump is repeating the recipe for failure, which could kill more Yemenis and push many more into misery, besides destabilising the region further. It is high time the world started engaging the Houthis to bring peace to the waters around Yemen instead of mindlessly bombing Yemen.

A jab in time

India must push for vaccination against the flu for the elderly

With recent reports indicating a rise in the seasonal influenza cases in the Delhi-NCR area, it is once again time to issue a cautionary note and make a renewed effort to push adult vaccination in the country. The predominant strains involved this season are Influenza A and Influenza B, many treating physicians and pulmonologists have reported. Influenza, with the moniker flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses. While it is routinely conflated with the common cold, since the symptoms present similarly – sudden cough and sore throat, with high fever, accompanied by muscle pain, body aches, headaches, fatigue and stuffy nose – it is not quite the same. Both are caused by different viruses and can have varying symptoms and severity. The flu causes mild to serious illness, requiring hospitalisation sometimes, and in a few cases, mostly coinciding with a delay in hospitalisation, can even lead to death. In India, there are two peaks of seasonal influenza, one from January to March and the other in the latter part of the southwest monsoon, in August-October. India has developed a near real time surveillance of cases of Influenza like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) presenting themselves in health facilities. This programme was further strengthened and made more robust during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also real time surveillance through the country-wide network of diagnostic laboratories. Epidemiologists say influenza surveillance is a key tool to keep tabs on circulating strains, and define seasonality, besides, playing an important role in syncing vaccination with relevant circulating strains. With all this information in place, it is highly unlikely that health managers will miss any seasonal uptick of cases.

However, the task at hand for governments is a little more complex – it is about being prepared to handle the outbreak by anticipating it and inculcating a sense of preservation, particularly among the high-risk groups ranging on the extremes of the age spectrum. Attention should be paid to children, senior citizens and people with chronic respiratory conditions. Key among the interventions recommended is increasing awareness on vaccination for influenza; in fact, people of all ages will benefit from a periodic shot of the updated flu vaccine. While vaccination for children is, by and large, acceptable, and an area of focus for all health managers, adult immunisation gets the short shrift. At the moment, it is left to the whims and resources of State governments to offer adult vaccinations. Targeted awareness campaigns must be clear, urgent in tone, and make an impact on the high-risk groups particularly, because, very simply, vaccines save lives.

A land where ambition grows minus an outbound ticket

Shashi Tharoor

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The recent drama over the unceremonious repatriation of Indians who attempted illegally to enter the United States of America, and who ended up handcuffed and manacled in an American military aircraft that dumped them on the tarmac in Amritsar, raises a whole series of issues. Migration, after all, is not merely a policy issue. It is a human story, woven into our collective memories and dreams.

Immigration has long been an integral part of human history, shaping civilisations, economies, and societies across the globe. India, with its rich tradition of global engagement, has long seen its people traverse continents in pursuit of opportunity, new lives, better futures. Every year, millions of Indians embark on this journey, making India the country with the highest number of emigrants in the world. Today, Indians are no longer just workers abroad; they are leaders, shaping global industries. With Sundar Pichai at Google, Satya Nadella at Microsoft, and a host of others born and raised in India heading Fortune500 companies, Indian migrants drive innovation and economic power in the West. History proves that migration has always been a force multiplier, enriching both migrants and host nations. Yet, in an era of rising walls, both physical and political, migration faces unprecedented scrutiny.

A paradox that is painful

For decades, the lure of the American Dream has beckoned young Indians with the promise of economic opportunity, social mobility, and the prospect of a better future. While the IT engineers in Silicon Valley went on scholarships or work visas and stayed on, the Sikh cab drivers navigating the streets of New York may have found less conventional means of entry. But these illegal migrants are not fugitives but opportunity-seekers wanting a fair shot at prosperity. With remittances to India crossing $120 billion in 2023, migration fuels a cycle where families seek to replicate the success of relatives abroad. It is the vast expanse of opportunity in major U.S. cities, the promise of work under the radar, and the prospect of eventual amnesty (like so many before them) that draws them in. An estimated 7,25,000 undocumented Indian migrants – nearly one in four of all Indians in the U.S. – live and work clandestinely in the U.S.

There is a painful paradox at the heart of India's illegal migration story. We celebrate tech billionaires while youth unemployment soars, showcase gleaming infrastructure while millions struggle for dignified work. India's growth story features booming statistics, shrinking opportunities, and a rising economy still unable to assure its own people that their future lies at home.

The lure of foreign shores is sometimes about ambition, sometimes about survival. This has birthed a thriving network of unscrupulous agents weaving fantasies of western riches, convincing even people from India's most prosperous States to leave. Gujarat – a State championed as an economic success story, the launch-pad of the Prime Minister's rise – sees thousands risking everything to migrate. Punjab, too, is revered as India's breadbasket; it feeds the nation, yet its youth are leaving in droves. Rising unemployment, dwindling agricultural returns, and an insidious drug crisis have eroded hope, leaving many with little choice but to seek their fortunes abroad, legally or otherwise.

In their desperation, many Indians turn to shadowy networks, paying staggering sums to be smuggled across borders. What was once the path of young, single men now sees entire middle-class families – the bedrock of India's ambitions– risking everything for a fresh start abroad. The Gujarati family that froze to death trapped in a snowdrift on the Canadian-U.S. border in January 2022 was upper middle-class at home. Some of those who were sent back by the U.S. had paid a crore of rupees to get there. Who would have imagined that people with a crore of rupees would not thrive in India? Why is India, one of the world's fastest-growing economies, a rising geopolitical force, and a nation with unparalleled human capital, still unable to provide enough opportunities for its own people? Why has the pursuit of dignity, stability, and economic security led millions of Indians to distant shores, even where they are not welcome? These are uncomfortable questions – ones we can no longer ignore.

More mirage than dream

There is also the question of what they find when they get there. The American Dream, once seen as a golden ticket, is increasingly a mirage. Many find themselves trapped in an endless cycle of uncertainty – living in fear of deportation, working in jobs that barely sustain them, struggling to integrate into societies that, at times, view them with racist suspicion. And for many who leave, the struggle does not end when they cross the border – it follows them, sometimes in the most tragic ways. We hear of migrants working endless hours in exploitative conditions, of families back home waiting for news that never comes. And now, for many, the journey merely ends in humiliating deportation.

The United States is well within its legal authority to return those who have entered its territory unlawfully. They have been doing so: the Biden administration deported 1,100 Indians in the last fiscal year. Since October 2020, nearly 1,70,000 Indian migrants have been detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection while attempting to cross the border illegally, largely from Canada or Mexico; they are all subject to deportation. However, the manner in which this process is conducted has been dismaying. Deportation must be carried out with dignity and a respect for human rights. The recent images of shackled and handcuffed migrants being loaded onto military aircraft, suggesting more a criminal extradition of felons than an immigration enforcement measure, have understandably agitated Indians. Colombia and Mexico have rejected such treatment of their citizens, rightly arguing that deportation is an administrative process, not a punitive spectacle. Humiliating individuals to deter others serves no just purpose – it merely erodes dignity and distorts perceptions.

> The unceremonious repatriation of Indians must awaken those who govern the country — India must become a nation where migration is an option, not a necessity

Issues to ponder over

We must ask: should a democracy treat another's citizens this way? Does border enforcement justify undermining the very values the deporting nation upholds? Diplomacy is not just policy but also a reflection of national character. While India does not, and should not, endorse illegal immigration, we cannot be silent spectators to the mistreatment of our citizens. A nation's stature is not just economic clout or international reach but the respect its passport commands. True global engagement is not just about alliances and trade deals; it is about setting an unwavering standard – wherever an Indian stands, their nation stands with them.

Another paradox: We hail the aspirational young Indian, but he prefers to fulfil his aspirations abroad. India must not be a place migrants are forced to return to, but one they want to return to. Those coming back are not just deportees but skilled, ambitious individuals whose aspirations can drive India's growth. We must make opportunities accessible to all, not concentrated among the privileged. Inclusive growth, innovation, and investments in infrastructure, education, and entrepreneurship must be national imperatives. More than just jobs, India must offer careers that inspire people to stay, build, and invest in their future here.

As the world builds walls, India must build bridges – to opportunity, prosperity, and a future where migration is an option, not a necessity. If India is to truly rise, it must become a nation where people do not feel compelled to leave, but empowered to stay. India must not just be the world's largest exporter of talent but a magnet for it – a place where ambition flourishes without an outbound ticket, where success is celebrated at home, and where prosperity is not a foreign fantasy but a reality shaped on our own soil.

Let us make India, once again, a land of hope. Not because the world is rejecting our people, but because, if we do the right things, they will have no need to look elsewhere.

The writer is grateful to Urjasvi Ahlawat for her assistance

New Delhi's perilous recalibration with the Taliban

Chris Fitzgerald

is a freelance journalist covering Afghanistan and director of the Platform for Peace and Humanity's Indo-Pacific program

India continues to get closer to the Taliban, with reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will allow the regime in Afghanistan to appoint a new envoy for its embassy in New Delhi.

This comes on the heels of the first high-level meeting between India and the Taliban in January, with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and acting Taliban 'Foreign Minister' Amir Khan Muttaqi meeting in Dubai to discuss strengthening political and economic ties, and providing humanitarian aid.

India's relationship with the Taliban has been trending this way for some time, beginning when New Delhi reopened its embassy in Kabul in June 2022, almost a year after the Taliban retook power in Afghanistan.

But accepting a Taliban diplomat in India would be a significant shift, all but recognising the regime as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan.

This is something most countries have refused to do because of the Taliban's abysmal treatment of women, with 1.4 million school-age girls deliberately denied their right to education and women forbidden from most jobs. More recently, women have also been banned from beauty parlours and national parks, cruel steps to remove them from the public eye. The situation is so bad it has been called "gender apartheid" by United Nations experts. New Delhi believes that this is the time to back the Taliban, seeing a chance to gain influence in a country seen as strategically important for India's interests.

China's quick moves

China has already beaten India to Kabul, becoming the first country to accept the credentials of a Taliban envoy last year and funding several infrastructure projects in Afghanistan. Beijing is also considering letting the Taliban join its lucrative Belt and Road Initiative, which would bring the regime firmly into its sphere of influence.

India can also get a jump on rival Pakistan, with its formerly warm relationship with the Taliban now ice-cold. Once seen as natural allies, the Taliban has sought independence from Islamabad and has forged relationships with the wider region, including China, Russia and its Central Asian neighbours. A former patron of the Taliban, Pakistan now finds itself lacking influence in Kabul.

> India risks getting its fingers burnt by engaging with the Taliban

A wave of terror

But engaging with the Taliban comes with significant risks, something India will need to consider before it gets involved in Afghanistan.

The country has become a hotbed for terrorism under the Taliban. The Islamic State (IS) is running rampant, conducting deadly terror attacks across Afghanistan that target the regime and the interests of its allies.

This includes the assassination of Taliban 'Minister' and powerbroker Khalil Ur-Rahman Haqqani in December and threatening to bomb the Chinese embassy in Kabul in 2023. This came after an IS attack on a Kabul hotel popular with Chinese nationals in 2022 that left three dead and injured 18 people.

Russia has also been targeted, witnessed by the IS attack on Moscow's Crocus City Hall in March 2024 that killed at least 140 people and injured more than 500. In early March this year, Russia's security agencies killed a man in a shootout in a Moscow subway who was suspected of being affiliated with the IS.

The Taliban has also been accused of supporting its affiliate, the Tehrik-e Taliban, to carry out attacks in Pakistan. A spate of attacks late last year led to Pakistan conducting airstrikes on terror camps in Afghanistan and subsequent clashes at border crossings between the Taliban and Pakistan's armed forces.

The relationship between the Taliban and Islamabad has completely broken down over the Taliban's inability to reign in terror groups operating within Afghanistan. The problem is getting worse, not better, with the Tehrik-e Taliban claiming to have carried out 147 attacks on Pakistani soil in February alone, killing 180 soldiers. Recently, the group's affiliate, the Jaish Al-Fursan, claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at an army compound in northwest Pakistan that killed nine and injured 25.

It is a matter of concern that India has already caught the ire of the IS. In December, the group claimed responsibility for an attack on the Indian consulate in Jalalabad that killed one person and injured two others. This came after a United Nations report last year said that the IS has sought to recruit 'lone actors' to carry out large-scale attacks in India. India is now clearly in the firing line.

Need for caution

New Delhi has long called for Afghanistan to be free of terrorism, and this should be a key demand before any further engagement with the Taliban takes place. This includes the Taliban collaborating with regional partners to defeat the IS and forcing the group to renounce the support of the Tehrik-e Taliban.

Afghanistan has always been a dangerous place to be invested in, having suffered from political instability and terrorism for decades. The Taliban's inability or unwillingness to solve these problems makes it just as risky a prospect today.

India should heed the lessons of rivals China and Pakistan, who have had their fingers burnt after engaging with the Taliban and investing in Afghanistan. With India's tragic history of terrorism at home, New Delhi might decide this is a risk just not worth taking.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Podcast with Fridman

It was a BJP government, led by Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee, that was in power at the Centre when the Gujarat riots took place in 2002, and Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of the State at that time. It is also said that Mr. Vajpayee had strong views about what had happened but was persuaded not to act against the Chief Minister. It was then that Mr Vajpayee sent out a strong message with the advice of the need to follow 'Raj dharma'.
In the podcast with Lex Fridman, the top leader has said that the "discourse around the 2002 riots was an attempt to create a false narrative about his involvement and his political opponents in power at the Centre wanted him to be punished but the courts cleared his name" (Inside pages, "False narrative created over Gujarat riots, courts found us innocent: PM", March 17). When it was Mr. Vajpayee who was the Prime Minister, one wonders who the so-called "political opponents" are being referred to.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

E-reading versus p-reading

The writer of the article, "An odyssey of the mind" ('Education Plus', March 17), seems to have taken a biased view despite justifications of his contentions. E-reading is admittedly bad for physical health, especially eyesight. But, what an electronic gadget provides is eclectic. The reader can discard what he does not need or like and move on to what he prefers — an advantage a book cannot provide. But, this does not mean that book reading has become almost obsolete. There is still a section of avid readers who prefer books, and this may even be termed 'habitual'. Another perspective is that the amount of information which e-reading provides is staggeringly phenomenal while p-reading may make the reader one-dimensional. E-reading gives readers different and differing viewpoints while the readers of p-reading may have to be content with the ideas of the author alone. For these reasons, among others, it is to be admitted that electronic reading has come to stay and is likely to make further inroads into the reading habit.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

The barriers faced by construction workers

Tarun Cherukuri
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Harshil Sharma
Director Government Relations, Indus Action

Construction is the fastest-growing sector, contributing about 9% to the national GDP and projected to reach $1.4 trillion by 2025. Around 3 crore workers are estimated to be working in this sector in India by 2030. However, last month, Larsen and Toubro Chairman and Managing Director, N. Subrahmanyan, voiced growing concerns over labour shortages in the sector. He said that some workers are reluctant to relocate for work due to the availability of welfare schemes, which offer them financial security. This narrative oversimplifies the structural issues that construction labourers face.

A fragmented journey

Construction workers, especially migrant labourers, endure a fragmented employment landscape characterised by frequent relocations, high job insecurity, inconsistent access to welfare benefits, and precarious working conditions. Despite legal frameworks such as the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (BOCW) Act, 1996, accessing welfare entitlements remains a significant challenge. Around 5.65 crore construction workers are registered with State construction boards. These have collected around ₹70,000 crore cesses, which are to be used for the welfare of construction workers. But this amount largely remains unutilised due to a series of issues.

A primary barrier for construction workers is obtaining and maintaining the documentation required for welfare registration. Proofs of identity, date of birth, and residence are essential documents for accessing benefits. However, due to the transient nature of their work, many labourers lack permanent addresses, making it difficult for them to secure documents such as birth certificates, residence proofs, and rental agreements.

The requirement for an 'employment certificate' validating 90 days of work in a year further complicates the process. This document is typically issued by employers, but in the case of a few States, it is substituted by self-certification or a trade union certificate. Still, employers are majorly called or visited for verification. Contractors are unwilling or unable to provide certificates or requisite information to the State, leaving workers unable to prove their eligibility. Additionally, verification protocols vary across States.

While State governments collect a 1-2% construction cess under the BOCW Act to fund worker welfare, approximately 75% of it remains unutilised, according to a 2023 Parliamentary Standing Committee report. This discrepancy is largely due to the fragmented nature of worker databases, inconsistent verification protocols, and cumbersome registration processes. For example, construction workers affected by seasonal employment disruptions, such as heat waves, struggle to access direct benefit transfers despite legal provisions. During the ban on construction due to air pollution in north India, lakhs of workers lost their livelihoods but faced delays and administrative challenges in securing financial relief. The lack of digital public infrastructure to facilitate rapid disbursement exacerbates their vulnerability.

Migrant workers often move across multiple States searching for employment, but the absence of interoperable systems means that benefits registered in one State cannot be accessed in another. For instance, a worker registered under the Haryana BOCW Board loses access to welfare if he relocates to Delhi. This disrupts continuity in welfare delivery and discourages workers from registering altogether.

> The narrative that welfare schemes disincentivise work oversimplifies the structural issues facing construction labourers

Proposed solutions

To address labour shortages in the construction industry, we propose the following actionable reforms. First, a unified national labour identification system, akin to the One Nation One Ration Card scheme, would facilitate inter-State portability of welfare benefits. If BOCW registrations are linked to UAN on e-Shram and worker data across States is integrated, construction labourers could access their entitlements regardless of their location.

Second, State governments should adopt open-source digital platforms to improve the accessibility and efficiency of welfare schemes. Implementing a centralised portal with standardised workflows would reduce administrative delays and enhance transparency. Such platforms can also support automated verification through Aadhaar seeding and real-time tracking of welfare disbursement.

Simplifying documentation protocols by accepting alternative proofs, and relaxing the verification protocols, can ease the process. State governments can facilitate bulk registration through on-site camps, ensuring that large construction projects maintain accurate worker records. This would reduce dependency on employer-issued certificates.

Investing in skill development programmes for construction is essential for addressing long-term labour shortages. A robust skilling ecosystem tailored to meet the evolving demands of the industry can enhance worker productivity and retention. But skilling alone is not enough – ensuring safe and dignified work environments is equally critical for maintaining workers' health and efficiency. Construction firms can play a key role in this by committing to both medium-term skilling initiatives and improved workplace standards, creating a more stable, skilled, and resilient workforce.

In conclusion, labour shortages cannot be addressed without acknowledging and resolving the systemic barriers to welfare access and employment continuity.

Breaking the ice over breakfast

Kerala's relationship with the Governor's Office and the Centre seems to be improving

STATE OF PLAY

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The recent breakfast meeting that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hosted for Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Kerala House in New Delhi seemed to signal a thaw in relations between the southern State and the Centre, especially on the financial front. After the meeting, Ms. Sitharaman's office shared photographs on social media.

K.V. Thomas, a Congress veteran who was expelled from his party for aligning with the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s agenda and who is now the Kerala government's special representative in New Delhi, was also present at the meeting on March 12. But what really grabbed the headlines was the presence and role of Kerala's new Governor, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. Even if we were to discount the acrimonious relationship that the Kerala government had with the previous Governor, Arif Mohammed Khan, to see Mr. Arlekar accompanying Mr. Vijayan to the meeting was unexpected.

A day earlier, Mr. Arlekar had hosted a dinner for the Members of Parliament from Kerala and interacted with them "on issues of concern", as the Kerala Raj Bhavan later posted on X. He had also assured Mr. Vijayan, who was present at the dinner, of his support to the State government in presenting its issues effectively before the Centre.

For Kerala and its CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, all this is happening at a critical point in time. Regarding financial matters, the Left government has for long accused the Narendra Modi government of giving it short shrift. It has blamed the Modi government for the State's mounting money woes and raged against the Centre for disregarding the concept of fiscal federalism. It even took the battle to the Supreme Court. Last year, in the aftermath of the destructive July 30 landslides in north Kerala's Wayanad district, the Pinarayi government also criticised the Centre for allegedly failing to support the State's rehabilitation efforts with monetary aid.

Over a five-year period, the State government's relations with the Raj Bhavan under Mr. Khan had also steadily crumbled, with both sides taking the battle out into the open. Mr. Khan had taken strong exception to the government's approach on a number of issues, especially in what he perceived as its unwarranted interference in the administration of universities of which he is Chancellor. At one point, Mr. Khan stated that he was withdrawing the Governor's pleasure as far as Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal was concerned. In other words, Mr. Khan wanted Mr. Balagopal dismissed for making remarks that he saw as seditious, undermining national unity and stoking regionalism.

On its part, the CPI(M) slammed Mr. Khan for dishonouring the Office of the Governor with his brazen behaviour. Even the State Legislative Assembly was not immune to the high drama. In one instance, Mr. Khan wound up his policy address in less than two minutes, limiting himself to just the first and last paragraphs of the 61-page document.

From there, the Kerala government's relations with the Raj Bhavan under Mr. Arlekar – a Sangh Parivar veteran and former Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Bihar who succeeded Mr. Khan on January 2 – seem to have shifted swiftly to the pleasanter end of the spectrum. Mr. Arlekar's maiden policy address to the State Assembly was, despite its two-hour duration, shorn of any drama. While he stuck to the script, the government apparently took care to avoid excessive political rhetoric in the text, setting the tone for what has since transpired.

How this perceived softening in Kerala's relations with the Centre works out for the State remains to be seen, coming as it does ahead of two crucial elections – the local body polls later this year and the Assembly elections next year. Mr. Balagopal's 2025-26 Budget speech on February 7 had opened with the announcement that Kerala has "definitely overcome the trying times of severe fiscal constraints that had affected the State in recent years". Nonetheless, Kerala expects the Centre to further loosen its purse strings, especially in the sharing of tax resources, and show more flexibility in its stand on the contentious issue of borrowing limits. The State is also keenly awaiting the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, hoping that it will get a better deal than it did under the 15th Commission.

H-1B workers with master's degree doubled in 2020s from 2000s

Key facts about the H-1B program and its workers, as bipartisan calls for reform gain momentum in the U.S.

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The landscape of H-1B visa approvals has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past two decades, according to data collated by the Pew Research Survey.

At the start of the millennium, 57% of approved H-1B workers had a bachelor's degree, while only 31% had a master's degree. By 2021, these numbers had flipped – only 34% held a bachelor's degree and 57% had a master's degree **(Chart 1)**. This means that a four-year degree has become less sufficient for securing a visa.

In the 2000s, about 10% of approved H-1B applications were renewals, while most were new. By the 2020s, renewals had grown to one-third of all approvals **(Chart 2)**. So, it has become increasingly tough for new applicants to secure a H-1B visa.

The denial rate for H-1B applications dropped to a record low of around 2% under former President Joe Biden, down from a peak of 15% during Donald Trump's first term. Under Barack Obama, it had fluctuated between 5% and 10% **(Chart 3)**. This data gains prominence with Mr. Trump serving a second term as President, though Republicans are divided over the skilled immigration issue.

In the 2000s, Indians had accounted for 40-50% of approvals. This rose to over 70% from the mid-2010s **(Chart 4)**.

In 2023, 65% of approved H-1B workers were hired for computer-related jobs. They also received a higher median annual salary than other job types, though managers had a significantly higher average salary **(Chart 5)**.

In 2023, Amazon sponsored the highest number of H-1B visas (2.9% of total approvals), followed by Cognizant Technology Solutions, Infosys, Tata Consultancy, and Google **(Table 6)**.

A profile of H-1B workers

The charts are sourced from Pew Research Centre's "What we know about the U.S. H-1B visa program"

Chart 1: The % share of H-1B workers approved each fiscal year whose highest level of education is a _____ degree

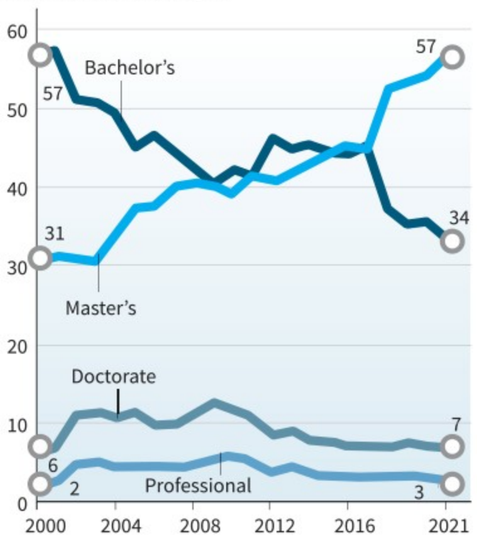


Chart 2: The number of H-1B applications approved each fiscal year. K= 1,000

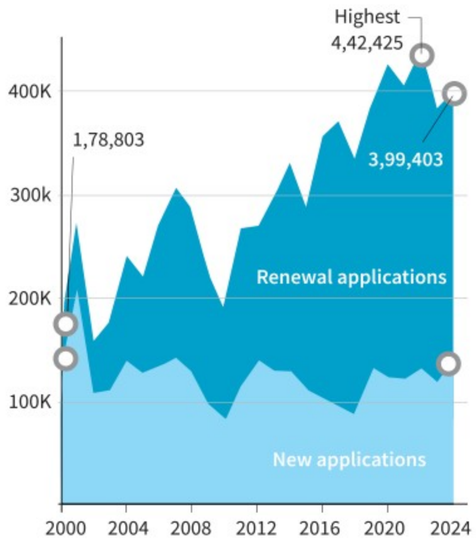


Chart 3: The % share of H-1B applications denied each fiscal year

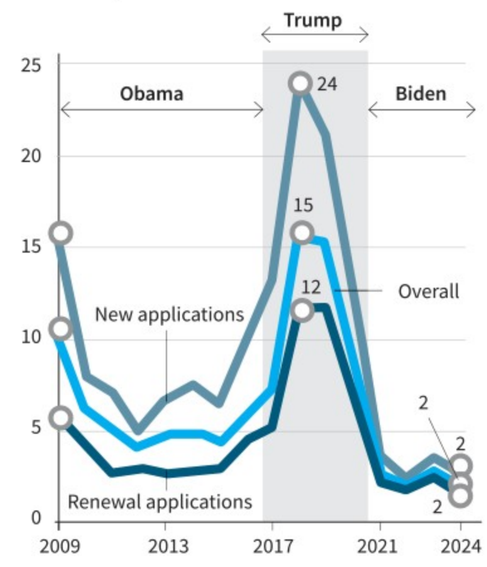


Chart 4: The % share of H-1B workers approved each fiscal year were born in _____

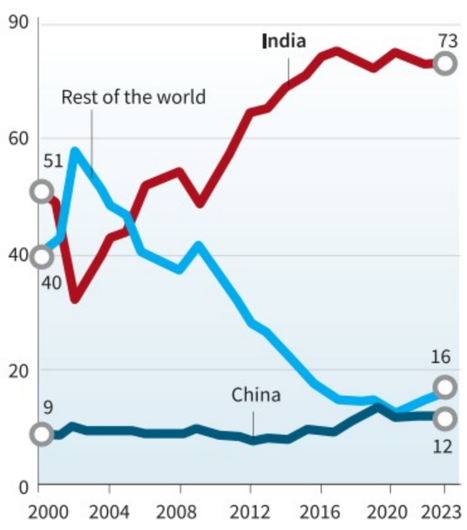


Chart 5: The % and median annual salary of H-1B workers approved in fiscal year 2023, by occupation

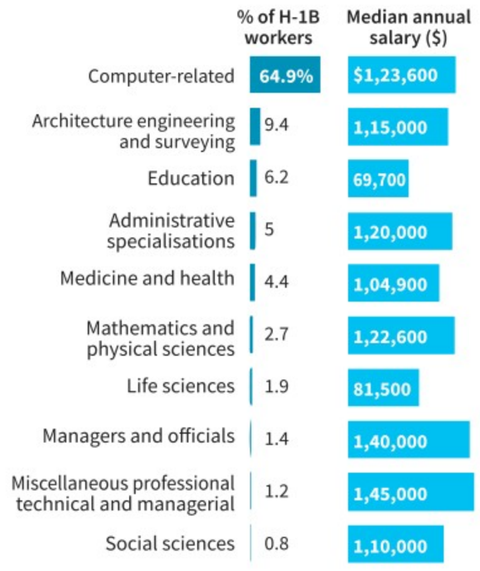


Table 6: Employers with the highest number of H-1B applications approved in fiscal year 2023

Rank	Employer name	Number of approvals	% of total Approvals
1	Amazon.com Services LLC	11,299	2.9%
2	Cognizant Technology Solutions	7,654	2%
3	Infosys Limited	7,349	1.9%
4	Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.	6,914	1.8%
5	Google LLC	5,465	1.4%
6	Microsoft Corp.	4,793	1.2%
7	Apple Inc.	3,821	1%
8	Meta Platforms Inc.	3,371	0.9%
9	JPMorgan Chase Co.	3,066	0.8%
10	Capgemini America Inc.	2,831	0.7%

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 18, 1975

Centre within its rights to insist on proper use of funds

New Delhi, March 17: The Union Finance Ministry has taken the stand that it is fully entitled to insist upon the proper utilisation of funds given to States for drought relief before making fresh allotments, in spite of the strong exception taken by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, to the remarks by Mr. C. Subramaniam, Union Finance Minister, on the subject.

Though sources close to the Ministry would not admit it, enquiries made here however indicate that there is a feeling that the unfortunate provocation caused to Mr. Karunanidhi could have been avoided.

It is pointed out in this connection that there was no reason to think that Mr. Subramaniam's remarks were addressed exclusively to drought relief administration in Tamil Nadu. He has taken the same stand in respect of other States also. There was, therefore, no reason why Tamil Nadu should be particularly sensitive to it. Finance Ministry sources are, therefore, uneasy that Mr. Subramaniam's remarks coming at a time when Tamil Nadu is passing through extremely difficult drought conditions, might be ruthlessly exploited by the DMK to project the view that he is taking a very unsympathetic attitude to the State.

The Finance Ministry is aware that the expression, "monitoring" of drought relief expenditure has particularly enraged the State Government because of its insinuations of corruption and extravagance at the State level.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 18, 1925

Children in Indian mines

London, March 16: In the Commons, replying to Mr. Wilfred Paling, Earl Winterton pointed out the employment of children under thirteen in mines in India was prohibited from 1st July 1924.

Col. Wedgwood declared children were still kept in the mines, if not working, at least with their mothers.

Earl Winterton reiterated children under thirteen were not employed underground.

Mr. Dalton, Labourite, asked whether they continued to sleep underground with the mothers.

Earl Winterton expressed the opinion it is very unlikely but he would make enquiries regarding it.

From Page One

India's goods trade deficit at 42-month low

"Given this, we now expect the current account to witness a surplus of around $5 billion in Q4 of FY2025, equivalent to around 0.5% of the GDP, in the ongoing quarter, " the ICRA chief economist added.

India exported services worth $35.03 billion and imported services worth $16.55 billion in February 2025. These numbers were $28.33 billion and $15.23 billion, respectively, in February 2024.

The trade data assumes significance at a time when India's currency is depreciating and uncertainties persist from U.S. trade policy.
(With inputs from Reuters)

'India, New Zealand to strengthen defence ties'

Pro-Khalistan elements pushing for an online "referendum" for establishing a Sikh homeland in Punjab have been active in New Zealand and the matter was further elaborated by the Secretary (East) in the Ministry, Jaideep Mazumdar. "We do alert our friends to the activities of anti-India elements in their countries and their abuse of freedom of speech and the democratic freedoms to glorify terror and to threaten attacks against our diplomats. I must say that the Government of New Zealand has been receptive as well as has taken our concerns on board in the past as well," Mr. Mazumdar said.

In his remarks, Mr. Luxon said New Zealand would expand its diplomatic presence in India by more than 60%, highlighting his country's commitment to deepen its relationship with India.

Mr. Luxon paid tribute to the Indian community in New Zealand, saying, "The Indian community is the third-largest ethnic group in New Zealand, India is our largest source of skilled migrants and our second largest source of international students. In short, Indian-Kiwis make a massive contribution to New Zealand and I'm proud of what this community does for our country."

Mr. Luxon had on Sunday announced that New Zealand and India agreed to launch negotiations on a comprehensive FTA. "It is through trade that we can boost the economies of both our countries, providing more jobs and higher incomes for Kiwis and Indians. India and New Zealand have a dynamic, multi-faceted relationship, with 300,000 Kiwi-Indians at its heart," Mr. Luxon said.

He also joined Mr. Modi on Monday evening at the annual Raisina Dialogue, where he was the keynote speaker.

In his speech, Mr. Luxon focused on three "tectonic" geopolitical shifts, in comments aimed at the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggression towards Indo-Pacific neighbours. He said that the rules-based order was giving way to "power" politics, that instead of economics, security considerations now drive countries, and instead of efficient and convenient supply chains, they now preferred protectionism and resilient supply chains from trusted partners.

Mr. Luxon said that New Zealand had "no pretensions to Quad membership" referring to the India-U.S.-Australia-Japan grouping, but was working with a grouping of New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and South Korea to discuss Ukraine and North Korea.

Rajnath raises SFJ issue with Tulsi Gabbard

Ms. Gabbard is on a three-day visit to India. She participated in a conclave of Intelligence chiefs on Sunday, and is scheduled to speak at the 10th Raisina Dialogue on Tuesday.

India-U.S. ties came under strain as an Indian citizen and former official of the Research and Analysis Wing, Vikas Yadav, was charged by the U.S. under the previous Joe Biden administration for directing a plot to kill Pannun.

The two leaders in their discussions reaffirmed the growing strength of the India-U.S. bilateral defence partnership, emphasising that strategic security remains a vital pillar of comprehensive global strategic cooperation between the two nations, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. "They reviewed the significant strides made in the areas of military exercises, strategic cooperation, integration of defence industrial supply chains and information-sharing cooperation, especially in the maritime domain, between India and U.S.," the Ministry said.

Mr. Singh expressed his gratitude to the U.S. Director of National Intelligence for her "steadfast goodwill" and "admiration for Indian culture and heritage", noting that such sentiments further deepened the bonds of friendship between India and U.S., the Defence Ministry's statement said.

Speaking to electronic media, Ms. Gabbard said that the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh was a long-standing concern, and "Islamist terrorism" a major cause of concern for President Trump.

"The long-time, unfortunate persecution, killing and abuse of religious minorities – Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Catholics, and others – has been a major area of concern for the U.S. government and, of course, President Trump and his administration," Ms. Gabbard said.

Later in the day, Ms. Gabbard met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a post on X, Mr. Modi expressed happiness in welcoming Ms. Gabbard to India.

Violence erupts as Bajrang Dal, VHP protest in Nagpur

Tensions escalated as rumour spread that a holy book was burnt during protests demanding the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb; police resort to lathi-charge and tear gas to disperse the crowds

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tensions gripped the Ganeshpeth, Mahal, and Gandhibagh areas in Nagpur in Maharashtra on Monday after protests over calls to demolish Aurangzeb's tomb turned violent, with stone-throwing and arson being reported.

The police said the tensions escalated after a rumour that a holy book was burnt during a protest. Videos of a Bajrang Dal demonstration went viral, leading to outrage and dispute between the two communities.

The police resorted to lathi-charge and tear gas to disperse the crowds, leaving several persons injured.

Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) activists demonstrated in various districts demanding the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb in Khuldabad, Chattrapati Sambhajinagar.

The police deployed additional forces, including quick response teams (QRTs), riot control police, and the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) to keep the situation under control.

Frayed tempers: Police personnel deployed in large numbers after tensions broke out following a dispute between two groups at Mahal in Nagpur on Monday. ANI

As a precautionary measure, security was heightened in other parts of the city.

"We are on the spot and in the process of filing an FIR," Nagpur Police Commissioner Ravinder Singhal told *The Hindu*.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari called the incident "unfortunate" and appealed to Nagpur citizens to remain calm. "The tense situation appeared in Nagpur after a dispute broke between two groups of youth in the Mahal area of Nagpur... The administration will definitely take action regarding whatever happened today," he said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis appealed to citizens to cooperate fully with the administration.

Maharashtra Congress chief Harshvardhan Sapkal said, "This is the city of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. The fact that such a level of tension, stone-throwing, and arson has erupted in this city, and the police were unprepared for it, reflects the failure of the Home Department. For the past few days, Ministers in the State Cabinet have been deliberately making provocative statements, attempting to create social discord."

Curbs imposed in Manipur district after assault sparks tension

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita were clamped in Manipur's Kuki-majority Churachandpur district after the assault on a Hmar tribal leader sparked tension.

Unknown miscreants assaulted Richard Hmar, the general secretary of Hmar Inpui and a member of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), on the premises of a school in Zenhang on Sunday night. He is undergoing treatment at a local hospital for injury and bleeding.

The district administration clamped the prohibitory orders after reports from Churachandpur's Superintendent of Police indicated "a serious apprehension of a breach of law and order in the district, which is likely to disturb peace and tranquillity among different communities and may lead to damage to life and public property".

The authorities prohibited unauthorised processions or unlawful assemblies of five or more persons and banned the carrying of arms or objects that can be used as weapons.

A notification from District Magistrate Dharun Kumar S. read, "... Our attention has been drawn to incidents where disputes are escalating in some areas, leading to unrest and disturbances that threaten the peaceful coexistence of our citizens."

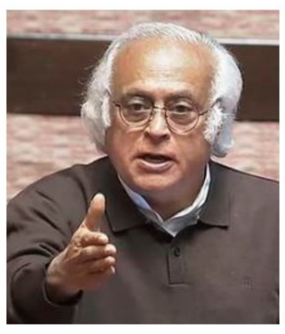
He said law enforcement teams were fully deployed to maintain order and measures were being taken to de-escalate tensions.

Trial in violence cases may be held in Assam

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday signalled that the criminal trials in the Manipur ethnic violence cases, investigated by the CBI, would be conducted in Guwahati, Assam, where they were transferred to in August 2023. Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna indicated that since the pre-trial processes of the cases were held in Guwahati courts, the trial would also "naturally" have to be held there.

PM speaking Trump's language on global organisations: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Jairam Ramesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going out of his way to keep U.S. President Donald Trump in good humour and is speaking his "good friend's language" on global organisations, the Congress said on Monday.

In his interaction with American podcaster Lex Fridman, released on Sunday, Mr. Modi stressed the need for collaboration to propel global initiatives forward. Commenting on the relevance of global organisations like the United Nations, he noted that their inability to evolve with the times sparked a global debate on their relevance.

"Mr. Modi clearly is going out of his way to keep Mr. Trump in good humour. He says international organisations, from which India has benefited immensely, have become irrelevant. This is the U.S. President's language," Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said on X, adding: "In fact, it is Mr. Trump who is doing his best to make them irrelevant and now Mr. Modi is repeating 'his good friend's' chant."

"Is the Paris Agreement on climate change not good for India? Has the UN, in spite of all its weaknesses, not provided opportunities for Indian peacekeepers abroad?" he asked.

He added that multilateralism needs reforms but "does not deserve the wholesale condemnation of the type President Trump and Prime Minister Modi are indulging in".

Soon after the podcast on Sunday, Mr. Ramesh took to X and said: "He who is afraid of facing the media in a press conference has found comfort in a foreign podcaster anchored in the right-wing ecosystem."

China welcomes Modi's comments, points to 2,000-year history of ties

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

China on Monday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that India and China have achieved "normalcy" on the border after his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and that the two sides were restoring ties to the pre-2020 state while ensuring that "differences don't become disputes".

Mr. Modi's comments, made to a U.S.-based podcaster, are by far the strongest indicator that New Delhi and Beijing are prepared to move beyond the tensions of the past five years, including the Galwan clashes in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed by PLA soldiers and incursions over the Line of Actual Control.

The comments by Mr. Modi follow months after the Indian Army chief, General Upendra Dwivedi, said the situation at the LAC was "stable but not normal" and that a "degree of stand-off" remained between the two Armies, while experts questioned whether relations can be "normalised" without completing the withdrawal of troops. In Beijing, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mao Ning called Mr. Modi's comments during the interview with podcaster Lex Fridman a "positive statement on China-India relations".

Strengthening ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024. ANI

Referring to the October 23 Modi-Xi meeting in Russia, the Chinese spokesperson said the two sides "have earnestly implemented the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries, strengthened exchanges and practical cooperation at all levels, and achieved a series of positive results".

During the interview, Mr. Modi, who has spoken very rarely about the stand-off with China, also said India and China had "no real history of conflict" and that the relationship should remain "just as strong in the future". While India and China have not fought each other historically, they have had tensions at the unresolved boundary for decades after they went to war in 1962.

Likening the two neighbours to a "family", Mr. Modi added that there may be "occasional disagreements", and that "even within a family, not everything is always perfect".

Friendly exchanges

Ms. Mao said the Chinese government had "noted and appreciated" the comments and also pointed to more than "2,000-year history of China-India exchanges, friendly exchanges, mutual learning, and mutual understanding", echoing Mr. Modi's words.

"It is the only right choice for China and India to be partners who contribute to each other's success and to realise the 'Dance of the Dragon and the Elephant'," Ms. Mao continued, referring to the Chinese depiction of India as an elephant.

The warm statements follow visits to Beijing by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and meetings between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the past few months, and could suggest more bilateral exchanges this year. Mr. Modi is expected to travel to China in June to attend the SCO Summit.

Mr. Jaishankar had said earlier this month that officials were working on the resumption of travel links between the two countries, business and tourist visas, the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, and the return of journalists.

India and Australia agree to deepen cooperation across maritime, land, air domains

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian delegation was headed by Amitabh Prasad, and Australian side was led by Bernard Philip

India and Australia on Monday agreed to deepen cooperation and interoperability across maritime, land, and air domains, including working with multilateral partners. The two countries also decided to focus on cooperation in maritime domain awareness, reciprocal information sharing, industry and science and technology collaboration aside from "exchanges including deployments from each other's territories".

This was agreed in the 9th India-Australia defence policy talks held in New Delhi.

The Indian delegation was headed by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad, while the Australian side was led by First Assistant Secretary International Policy Division, Department of Defence, Australia, Bernard Philip.

"Both sides welcomed sustained progress in bilateral defence cooperation, including the growing complexity of defence exercises and exchanges. It included several first-time milestones, finalisation of key agreements and participation in each other's major defence trade expositions," a Defence Ministry statement said.

Militant from Pakistan killed in encounter with security forces in Kupwara, say police

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A militant was killed in an operation by the security forces in Kupwara district in north Kashmir on Monday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police identified the slain militant as Saifullah, from Pakistan. "We received an input on Monday morning and the operation was launched. Saifullah was active for some time and has been neutralised. Sanitisation of the area is

A security personnel stand guard in Kupwara district, on Monday.

on," Senior Superintendent of Police Mushtaq Choudhary said.

An Army spokesperson said the anti-militancy operation was launched "on specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists".

"A joint operation was launched in the general area of Khurmur forest, Handwara, Kupwara. Suspicious activity was observed by vigilant troops and on being challenged, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire," the spokesperson said.

The anti-militancy operation continued till late in the evening on Monday.

'Modi govt. has honoured all freedom fighters'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Claiming that attempts were made to "intentionally erase" the contributions of many freedom fighters in the past, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday said the Modi government had honoured all those who fought and sacrificed their lives for India's Independence.

He was responding to a question from DMK member T.R. Baalu in the Lok Sabha whether the government would come forward to select "at least now" all freedom fighters who were killed by the British.

Mr. Shekhawat said the Modi government had honoured all freedom fighters of the country through *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

Replying to another question from BJP member Sambit Patra, he said six sites had been added to India's tentative list by the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

Opposition walks out of RS over EPIC row, delimitation

Notices under Rule 267 were not accepted by Deputy Chairman Harivansh; other MPs pressed for discussions on Airtel, Jio's deals with Starlink, atrocities against SCs, STs and OBCs in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs, including of the Congress and Trinamool Congress, walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Monday after their demand for a discussion on the duplicate voter ID card numbers and delimitation was disallowed.

Ten MPs from the Trinamool, Congress and Left parties gave notices under Rule 267 that calls for setting aside business of the day to take up discussion on the issue being raised through them. But Deputy Chairman Harivansh said they could not be accepted as they were not in conformity with the rulings of the Chair on such notices.

While the Trinamool and Congress MPs sought to raise the duplicate voter ID card number issue, parties from Tamil Nadu wanted to discuss the impact of the upcoming delimitation exercise on the southern States.

Topic of discussion: Rajya Sabha members during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. SANSAD TV

Slogans raised

Opposition members raised slogans and pressed for a discussion. However, they staged a walkout after Mr. Harivansh said that their notices had not been accepted and nothing they said was going on record.

Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Mausam B. Noor, and Sushmita Dev (Trinamool) and Pramod Tiwari (Congress) had demanded a discussion over the alleged lapse of the Election Commission in the issuance of multiple duplicate voter ID card numbers across the States, Mr. Harivansh said.

P. Wilson of the DMK and V. Sivadasan of the CPI (M) demanded a discussion on concern of the southern States over the delimitation exercise.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Samik Bhattacharya wanted to discuss increased instances of atrocities against the Scheduled and Other Backward Class communities in West Bengal.

The Communist Party of India's P. Sandosh Kumar sought to raise the issue of the impact of the deals by Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio with Elon Musk's Starlink for providing satellite broadband Internet in India.

While Sanjay Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party demanded a discussion on the increase in crimes and deteriorating law and order in Delhi, Haris Beeran of the Indian Union Muslim League wanted one on the issue of increased instances of drug addiction among youth in Kerala.

Railways is in good financial condition, Minister tells House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The allocation for the Railways has increased to ₹2.5 lakh crore from ₹25,000 crore in the past 10 years, and the sector has come out of the difficulties it had faced during the pandemic, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Replying to a debate on the workings of the Railway Ministry, he said that the Railways was fulfilling its expenses from its own income because of the good performance. Listing out the numbers, he said the revenue for 2023-24 had been ₹2.78 lakh crore, while expenses had been around ₹2.75 lakh crore. Expenses included staff costs of around ₹1.16 lakh crore, pension payments of around ₹66,000 crore, power bill of around ₹32,000 crore and financing cost of ₹25,000 crore, he said.

"Overall, the financial condition is good and we are trying to improve it on a constant basis," he said, adding that the subsidies for passengers for providing stable rail fares had also increased.

Cargo charges have also helped meet the needs of passenger subsidies, he said. "If you look at a journey of 350 km, ₹121 is the fare of general class in India, ₹400 in Pakistan, ₹413 in Sri Lanka. This is the same in almost all categories," he said, adding that the Centre is focusing on safety too.

Responding to Opposition charges about recruitment being stagnant, the Minister said that five lakh people were employed by the Railways in the past 10 years and that recruitment process was currently under way for one lakh vacancies.

Opposition members had also criticised the way safety and passenger facilities were being handled by the Railways. Left MP A.A. Rahim said lack of adequate appointments was directly linked to the safety in the Railways.

Lok Sabha debate

Participating in the Lok Sabha debate on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Railway Ministry for 2025-26, the Congress's Varsha Gaikwad said that making Instagram Reels would not help the Railways as it was on a "ventilator" because of poor management.

Trinamool member Kalyan Banerjee said the allocation for passenger amenities had been falling.

Mr. Banerjee, and Karti Chidambaram of the Congress raised the issue of stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station during the Maha Kumbh.

DMK MP S. Murasoli urged the government to appoint persons speaking the language of the respective States at railway stations and ticket counters.

MP flags delay in fulfilling assurances made in Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly 75% of the assurances made by Union Ministers in Parliament were not fulfilled, according to information provided by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Raising the issue during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, AAP member Sanjay Singh said that according to a government reply, out of 160 assurances made in the House in 2024, only 39 were fulfilled and 119 were pending.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said a negligible number of assurances were pending after an Online Assurances Monitoring System was launched in 2018 and 99% requests were resolved.

He said all assurances should ideally be honoured within three months and if not fulfilled, then it would be a blot on parliamentary democracy. "We recently wrote to all Ministers to respond to assurance within three months and respond to letters by Members of Parliament within a month," he said.

Mr. Singh said there was a contradiction in the reply given by the Minister as their website showed that 1,324 assurances were pending.

The Minister said, "I do not know what website you are referring to? I will get it checked. If you consolidate the data since 1947, then how does it help?"

He added that 547 assurances were pending in the Rajya Sabha and 764 in the Lok Sabha.

Double-engine govt. has fallen flat in Manipur, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha was discussing the Manipur Budget and four other Bills

The Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said the Centre's claims that "everything is good in Manipur" was an exercise in propaganda.

It said that the ground reality in the State was very worrisome, and added that the promise of a "double engine government" had fallen flat.

The Centre faced criticism in the Upper House while discussing the Manipur Budget for 2025-26, and four Bills, including the Appropriation Bill, the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, the Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, and the Manipur Appropriation Bill.

Initiating the debate, senior Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil asked the BJP to act beyond narrow political interests to serve the country. He criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting Manipur following violence.

"Had he [the PM] visited Manipur, the people of the State would have realised that the country is with them," Mr. Gohil said. He said the allocation for relief works had to be increased.

Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev asked the BJP about its promise to the people of Manipur of providing them with a "double-engine government".

"Manipur is burning," she said, criticising the Centre for presenting a "run-of-the-mill Budget".

DMK MP R. Girirajan asked Mr. Modi to have compassion and sympathy, and visit Manipur.

Notice to Air India over woman's injury

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has served a show-cause notice on Air India after an 82-year-old woman suffered brain injuries from a fall at the Delhi airport following a delay in providing her a wheelchair, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu informed the Rajya Sabha.

The Ministry took immediate cognisance of the incident and is inquiring into it in-depth, the Minister said. He was responding to Congress MP Priyanka Chaturvedi who asked about measures being taken for providing assistance to senior citizens and other priority passengers.

"We assure the members that we are looking into the issue," he said.

SP seeks PM's response on Trump's voter turnout claims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman on Monday demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement in the Rajya Sabha regarding U.S. President Donald Trump's allegation that millions were sent to India as a grant for enhancing "voter turnout" during Indian elections.

Mr. Suman questioned the intelligence agencies for not flagging the flow of foreign money in the country to intervene in the election process.

"Mr. Trump has said multiple times that to increase voter turnout in India, we [U.S Agency for International Development] have given $ 2.1 crore. Finance Ministry says they have not received the money. PM has not said a word, this is interference in our internal matter. The government silence adds to the suspicion," Mr. Suman said.

Speaking during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, he added, "What were our intelligence agencies doing? A foreign entity comes and intervenes in our election process. We do not know what happened? Everyone knows that Modi*ji* is friends with Trump. The Bharatiya Janata Party should clarify, what is the matter?"

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Online bids are invited from eligible bidders for Segregation of 11 KV mixed 196 Nos. feeders at 03 circles of Jaipur Discom of Rajasthan State under Revamped Reforms-Based and Results linked Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) on turnkey basis against TN-590 to TN-592. Participating bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 13.03.2025 at 3.00 P.M. onwards. End Date/Time for receipt of online bids through e-procurement portal is 01.04.2025 up to 05.00 P.M. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website **http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl. UBN: No: VVN2425WLOB01239, VVN2425WLOB01241, VVN2425WLOB01242**

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242513 007292	Procurement of Sodium Silicate - Alkaline for Unit-I	31.03.2025
242513 007296	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC)	31.03.2025
242513 007297	Procurement of TNPL Copier A4 70, 75 & 80 GSM 10 Reams Carton Lid and Tray.	31.03.2025
Email	242513007283 ; 7292 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 242513007296 ; 7297 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

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BESCOM invites tender through KPP Portal vide **Enquiry No.**BESCOM/2024-25/IND0106 for **"Supply of Truck Mounted Crane with Detachable Man Basket & Earth Auger as per Tender Specification."** Bid documents available from **18.03.2025.** Last date for bid submission is **16.04.2025, 17.00 Hrs.** Opening of bid document is on **17.04.2025, 17.15 Hrs.** The Tender documents can be obtained through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP helpdesk contact numbers **(+91-80-46010000, +91-080-68948777)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

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TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties (both Legal Entities and Group of Individuals) for "Selection of an Agency (Firm / Group of Individuals) for Wildlife Filming and Photography for Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited"

The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **18/03/2025 onwards.**

The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 01/04/2025 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 03/04/2025 up to 3:00 pm.**

Managing Director

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division,
3rd Main Road,1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana,
Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.

No:EE(VJN)/AE/KPPP/11/2024-25 Date: 17.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Single & Two cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, (Vijayanagara) BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/Ralways/MES or any State Government Orgaizations for the constructions of works detailed in the table below. **(STD KW-3)**

Sl No.	Name of the Works/Category (Two Cover System) (KW-3)
1.	Flood mitigation works in Manuvana & RPC Layout in Vijayanagara Constituency. (Others) Approx. value of work : ₹ 60.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 120000/-
2.	Filling of Potholes & Restoration of Road Cut Portions in Ward No-149, 150, 151 & 152 Gali Anjaneya Temple Sub Division for the year of 2024-25. (Call-3) (Others) Approx. value of work : ₹ 60.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 120000/-
3.	Comprehensive development of Roads, Drains and other allied works in Ward No-144 K P Agrahara & Ward No-145 Vijayanagara. (Others) Approx. value of work : ₹ 100.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 200000/- (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-Procurement portal & the balance Rs.1,00,000/- shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/FD)
4.	Comprehensive development of Roads, Drains and other allied works at New Guddadahalli and Surrounding areas in Ward No-148 New Guddadahalli. (Others) Approx. value of work : ₹ 100.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 200000/- (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-Procurement portal & the balance Rs.1,00,000/- shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/FD)

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **25.03.2025** at **3:00** pm. (2) Last date & time for receipt of tenders is **28.03.2025** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid **is 29.03.2025** at **4:30** pm. (4) Date & time for Opening of Financial Bid **(Will be intimated through kppp)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 10/2024-25 Dated : 15-03-2025

The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist. on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru has invited tender through KPPP Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** In the form of **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION** format and the details are as here under.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Crore)	Period for completion	RFQ doc. Fee (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Development and Operation / Maintenance of Proposed upgradation of Cauvery Brindavan Garden under PPP at Krishna Rajasagara Dam, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District/call-3	2615.96/-	Four and Half years for Construction. 30 Years of O/M.	2.60/-

RFQ document fee is to be paid in the form of DD, in favour of the undersigned office. Any further information Or clarification for the above said work can be obtained from the undersigned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PIMPRI- 411018
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO. CIVIL/AHO/EOI/68/01/2024-25

Expression of Interest

SETTING UP OF SMART PUBLIC TOILETS AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ALONG WITH ITS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE IN THE CITY OF PIMPRI CHINCHWAD

Schedule of EOI Process

Availability of EOI document:	:	18/03/2025 (Downloadable from website:
Last date & time for receipt of EOI	:	02/04/2025, 03.00 PM (Hard Copy should be submitted at PCMC within 3 working days of opening of EOI)
Pre Bid Meeting	:	21/03/2025 at 3:00 P.M. in the Conference Hall of City Engineer PCMC
Form Fee	:	Rs.37,460/-
EMD Amount	:	Rs.1,00,000/-
Place of Submission of EOI	:	City Engineer, Civil engg.dept., PCMC Building, Near Old Bombay-Pune Road, Pimpri- 411018
Date & Time of opening of EOI	:	04/04/2025, 03:00 PM (If Possible)

The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site http://mahatenders.gov.in In case of any technical problem related to the tender document, the same can be referred to the NIC email support-eproc@nic.in or on telephone numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005,0120-627787

As per Acceptance of EOI the contractor or Organization should have to submit 1.5% Security Deposit in FDR/BG Format of National or Schedule bank in favour of Commissioner of PCMC before placing work order. The Remaining 3.5% Security Deposit will be Recovered from the RA Bills.

Sd/-
City Engineer
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation Pimpri-411018

Advt. No.:- 2024-25/470
No.Civil/A Zone/10/WS/168/2025 Dt.13/03/2025

INBRIEF

Justice Joymalya Bagchi sworn in as SC judge

Justice Joymalya Bagchi was sworn in by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna as a Supreme Court judge on Monday. The appointment of Justice Bagchi raises the judicial strength of the Supreme Court to 33. The court's vacancy has been reduced to one. Justice Bagchi, who was a Calcutta High Court judge prior to his appointment to the apex court, is in line to be CJI in May 2031. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended Justice Bagchi's name to the government on March 6. In its resolution, the Collegium had stated that there has not been a CJI from the Calcutta High Court after the retirement of Justice Altamas Kabir in 2013.

HC relief for Adani in market regulations violation case

The Bombay High Court on Monday discharged industrialist Gautam Adani, the chairman of Adani Enterprises Ltd., and the company's managing director Rajesh Adani in a ₹388 crore alleged market regulation violation case filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). A single Bench of Justice Rajesh N. Laddha quashed a 2019 sessions court order which refused to discharge the duo and the company. The complaint was filed against Triumph Securities Ltd. and 10 other accused for offences punishable under Sections 420, 120B of the Indian Penal Code, concerning cheating and criminal conspiracy.

Opposition joins Muslim law Board's protest on Waqf Bill

If non-Hindus cannot be part of temple trusts, how can non-Muslims be part of Waqf Boards, asks AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi; BJP's allies will never be forgiven if they support the Bill, he adds

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties, led by the Congress, on Monday lent their voice to the All India Muslim Personal Law Board's last-ditch attempt to foil the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Board organised a protest to draw attention to what it called "a clear attempt to intimidate Muslims" and "take away the rights granted to them by Articles 12 to 35 of the Constitution". Most Opposition parties, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Communist Party of India, CPI (Marxist), CPI (Marxist-Leninist), Nationalist Congress Party, and the Indian Union Muslim League were represented at the protest.

Significantly, the Biju Janata Dal joined hands with the Opposition at the meet. The BJP's allies, notably the Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party, stayed away.

Leading the attack was All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi who launched a tirade against BJP allies, the TDP and JD (U), for supporting the government on the Waqf issue. "We are raising questions on Chandrababu Naidu, Chirag Paswan *sahib*, and Nitish Kumar. Remember, if you support this unconstitutional Bill at this critical time, Muslims will never forgive you. Your support will enable this law," Mr. Owaisi said before pointing out some alleged fundamental anomalies in the Bill.

Asaduddin Owaisi addresses the gathering during a protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"If non-Sikhs cannot be members of gurdwaras and non-Hindus cannot be part of temple trusts, how can non-Muslims be included in Waqf Boards," Mr. Owaisi asked. The Bill introduces the entry of non-Muslims on the Waqf which can in some cases even translate to a non-Muslim majority in the Waqf board.

'Unconstitutional'

"I am here to support you. They want to usurp Muslim properties. We will do all we can to defeat this Bill," said Mohammed Jawaid, the Congress's Kishanganj MP. "The law they want to pass, is totally unconstitutional, hence everyone is worried. It is a responsible organisation [AIMPLB], on which there is a lot of pressure from society, hence they are protesting to let the government know about their pain."

Incidentally, Mr. Jawaid was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf Bill, which submitted its findings to the Speaker last month. His colleague, former Union Minister Salman Khurshid, alerted the gathering that the "struggle would be long" and require efforts 'both inside the Parliament and the judiciary".

Samajwadi Party MP Muhibullah Nadvisaid, "The Bill is an interference in Muslim matters. People of all religions are allowed to run their endowment boards but an attempt is being made to weaken the Waqf Boards. It will endanger the Muslim properties in the years to come."

The participation of leading Muslim bodies, the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, represented by their chiefs, lent the protest greater acceptance among the community. "If every faith has the right to administer its affairs, why are Muslims being singled out," said Syed Sadatullah Husaini, president of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind said

Bar Council flags rise in misinformation on critical legal issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BCI ordered mandatory cessation of unauthorised legal advice dissemination by non-enrolled individuals

The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Monday raised serious concern over the rapid growth of self-styled legal influencers on social media, noting that many of them spread misinformation on critical legal issues without possessing appropriate credentials.

In a statement, the body which regulates the legal profession in India said, "Many such legal influencers who without possessing appropriate credentials, spread misinformation on critical legal issues such as matrimonial disputes, taxation, intellectual property rights, citizenship laws, privacy rights, and GST compliance."

"Incorrect or misleading interpretations of landmark judgments like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the Right to Privacy ruling in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India*, and GST regulations have resulted in widespread confusion, misguided legal decisions, and undue judicial burden," the body said.

It issued a "stringent warning" against the increasingly prevalent and unethical practice of advocates advertising their legal services through social media, promotional videos, and influencer endorsements. "The BCI expressly denounces the involvement of Bollywood actors, celebrities, and digital media platforms as promotional tools, which clearly violate Rule 36, Chapter II, Part VI of the BCI Rules," the statement said.

It also ordered mandatory cessation of misleading and unauthorised legal advice dissemination by non-enrolled individuals.

Explicit warning

In July last year, the BCI issued a press release where it "explicitly" warned advocates against unethical practices of advertising their legal services following a judgment of the Madras High Court.

In the ruling, the Madras High Court highlighted that promotional activities through online platforms severely compromise ethical standards and professional integrity.

Ex-Minister Debendra Pradhan dies at 84

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR

Veteran BJP leader Debendra Pradhan, who was a Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, died on Monday.

He was 84 and is survived by two sons, including Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Pradhan, the three-time Odisha BJP president, breathed his last at his son's official residence at Teen Murti Lane in New Delhi. Condoling his death, President Droupadi Murmu said that having known him for many years, she got the opportunity to witness his contribution to the development of Odisha and the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Pradhan, and hailed his efforts in strengthening the BJP in Odisha.

Indian Embassy in Baghdad lost many records in 2003 war

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Several records in the Indian Embassy at Baghdad were lost and destroyed during the invasion of Iraq by the United States in 2003. This was revealed to a petitioner who sought details of his birth from the records of the embassy under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Edwin Nazarius Dmello wrote to the Indian Embassy in Baghdad saying he was born in Kuwait on July 28, 1954, when the Indian mission was not established in that country. He sent an email requesting details of his birth as available on record. The embassy officials replied saying no such information was available. Not convinced with their response, the petitioner moved an appeal before the Central Information Commission.

During the hearing, the Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) reiterated that many official records were lost and destroyed during the U.S. invasion of Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein, the then President, and the shifting of the Embassy from Adhamiya to Al-Mansour in Baghdad.

"It was clearly mentioned in the RTI response that no record as sought in the RTI application was found in the embassy. CPIO can provide information only which exists on record, and he is not supposed to create information on basis of documents provided by RTI applicant," the official said. Passing orders in the case, the Chief Information Commissioner, Heeralal Samariya, said an appropriate reply was given by the embassy.

Temple blast suspect killed in exchange of fire in Punjab

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

A suspect in a blast outside a temple in Amritsar was killed in an exchange of fire with the police, a top officer said on Monday.

Another suspect managed to flee, he said, adding that efforts were on to nab him.

A blast had occurred outside the Thakur Dwara Temple on Saturday when a person hurled an explosive device towards it, damaging a portion of its wall and shattering window panes.

Punjab Police Chief Gaurav Yadav said that acting on specific intelligence, the Amritsar police tracked down those responsible for the attack. "The accused opened fire, injuring HC Gurpreet Singh and striking Insp. Amolak Singh's turban," he said on X.

SC to examine petition on CAG appointment process

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine a plea challenging the sole prerogative of the Centre, acting through the President, to appoint the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, advocate Prashant Bhushan said absolute control by the Centre over the appointment process of a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) would gravely affect the independence of a Constitutional authority, which was a watchdog over the financial expenditure and accountability of the Union and State governments and even the Panchayati Raj institutions.

The petition said the CAG must be appointed by the President in consultation with a non-partisan selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

The petitioner, Centre for Public Interest Litigation, also represented by advocate Cheryl D'Souza, referred to recent "deviations" in the CAG's work, including reports on the "pause" in Maharashtra audits, a steady decline on audits on the Union government, among others.

Mr. Bhushan said Article 148(1) of the Constitution equates the CAG with a Supreme Court judge. A CAG can be removed only for the same reasons and in the same manner as an apex court judge.

Issuing notice to the Union government, Justice Kant, however, asked whether a judicial intervention would amount to re-writing Article 148, which deals with the appointment of a CAG. Article 148, like in the case of Supreme Court judges, is silent about the procedure of appointment. Justice Kant also remarked that one should be able to "trust institutions".

Mr. Bhushan argued that giving exclusive control to the Executive over appointments to key Constitutional bodies would be a sure recipe for loss of independence.

10 years after ban, legal coal mining begins in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya government has initiated legal coal mining more than a decade after the National Green Tribunal banned the hazardous rat-hole method of extracting the fossil fuel.

On Monday, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma inaugurated the first 'scientific' coal mining block at Saryngkham-A in the East Jaintia Hills district. Two other blocks cleared by the Coal Ministry are Lumiakhi Wahsarang in the same district and Pyndengshalang in West Khasi Hills district.

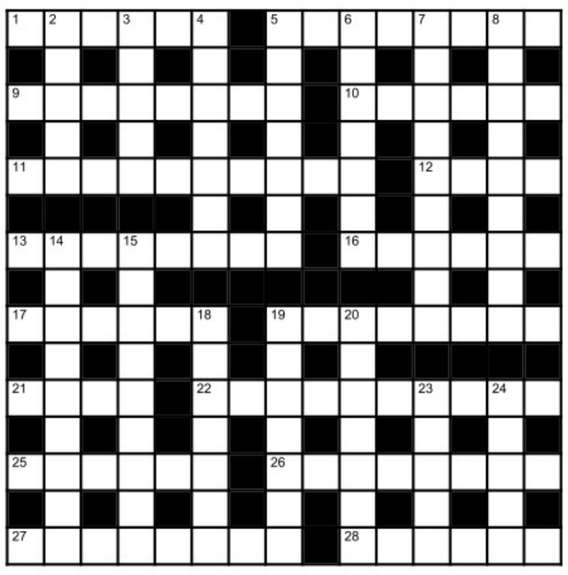
Addressing a gathering via videoconferencing, the Chief Minister said the last 10 to 11 years were the most difficult phase for thousands in the State who were directly and indirectly connected with the coal industry.

TH CROSSWORD + 14435

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 A taxi reverses with you and me - we can count on it! (6)
5 Bother! Wet girl leaves without towel's top (8)
9 Say, Rummy Spooner's sentry drew nigh! (4,4)
10 Swell! Join after teetotaller replaces saint (6)
11 ... say, annoyingly tend to lie about date? (6,4)
12 Let it be so! Some fortune may turn around (4)
13 Obese lot, sadly no longer in use (8)
16 No! This line of argument for a change is honest! (6)
17 He was from the beginning enterprising, dynamic, innovative - so overwhelmingly noble (6)
19 High-pitched cry (basically scary) disturbed creche - end of day (8)
21 Surgeon's advocate (4)
22 Sneak or pry to become a buttinsky (4-6)
25 Say, Clark apprehends Regina's doctor (6)
26 Misrepresented scene involving criminal Lodge (8)
27 A large number of naughty ads he sold without shame basically (8)
28 Measure old pavilion (6)

Down

2 Hurrah! Initially Bheema rode a Vayu-Vajra? Oh! (5)
3 Young trainee, somewhat indulgent, edacious, stuck-up (5)
4 Cover small stagger (7)
5 Make a list of extremely important monthly instalments by 5th of September (7)
6 Wonder, Parry's daughter is right (7)
7 Brewed tea, consumed several times in cosy chat! (4,1,4)
8 In addition to that he threw it haphazardly (9)
14 Bertha's oral offence? (3,6)
15 Yes! Debtor is beaten up for an area at the bottom of the sea (6,3)
18 Made-up one endlessly horny protagonist perhaps flawed (3-4)
19 Arrest extremely useless writer inside borders of Switzerland (7)
20 Return advertisement cycling around Indonesian capital (7)
23 Drop costs (limitlessly) to settle (5)
24 Complex conversation about previous inmate (2-3)

SUDOKU

							1	9
	6				2	7		3
4			7	9				
	3				9	6		
	8	7				4	9	
		2	6				7	
				1	6			7
7		8	9				2	
9	5							

No.SS6462 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

■	O	S	■	A	C	E	T	D
A	S	T	I	■	B	E	A	U
X	■	R	E	A	L	■	L	■
L	■	S	■	R	■	A	Y	■
S	■	N	O	V	I	C	E	■
M	A	M	M	O	T	H	S	■
■	C	■	I	■	P	■	U	■
B	R	O	O	K	L	Y	N	■
L	A	T	E	S	T	■	E	■
N	■	E	■	E	■	U	■	C
H	E	E	T	A	H	■	I	S
O	T	O	P	E	■	A	■	N
S	■	O	■	E	■	A	B	H
O	R	S	■	L	U	K	E	W
A	R	M	■	■	P	■	W	A
■	A	■	N	■	■	U	P	S
T	R	E	A	M	■	R	E	H
E	A	T	■	E	■	O	■	R
M	■	A	■	A	D	■	F	R
A	U	■	E	V	E	N	T	■
L	E	A	P	■	M	■	T	■
D	■	R	■	E	■	L	■	M

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	2	7	6	4	5	8
5	8	6	4	1	9	3	7	2
2	7	4	3	5	8	6	9	1
8	9	5	1	2	4	7	6	3
6	4	2	9	3	7	8	1	5
3	1	7	8	6	5	9	2	4
9	5	8	7	4	2	1	3	6
7	6	3	5	8	1	2	4	9
4	2	1	6	9	3	5	8	7

FAITH

Gems among sacred texts

Sacred literature helps us realise that our goal should be moksha. Reading sacred texts keeps us away from getting distracted by worldly attractions, and helps us remain focused. There are many gems among the hundreds of sacred texts that have come down to us, said T.A. K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse. Among the 18 major Puranas, Vishnu Purana is considered a gem, and is called Purana Ratna. Among mantras, the dhvaya mantra is a gem. Among stotras, Alavandar's Stotra Ratna is a gem. While the Itihasas and Puranas have many lessons for us, there is nothing to equal the Bhagavad Gita. Among works that offer spiritual guidance to us, Manavala Mamunigal's Upadesaratnamala is a gem. Srivachanabhushanam is an ornament (bhushanam) for devotees.

Of works that praise Goddess Sridevi, Parasara Bhattar's Sri Guna Ratna Kosa is a gem. It tells us of the gem-like precious qualities of the Goddess. This work is an ornament for Her. There was a scholar named Madhavachar, who was won over to Visishtadvaita by Bhattar. The arguments that Bhattar used were based on Thiruneduntandakam, a work by Thirumangai Azhvar. A sacred work is begun with blessings to those who are going to read the work. Sometimes it begins with a submission of the composition at the feet of Acharyas. Manavala Mamunigal's Upadesaratnamala is an example of this. Or one can get straight to the subject. In his Guna Ratna Kosa, Bhattar gets to the main theme in the very first sloka. He says that the Lord is tired because of creating, protecting and dissolving the world, and Goddess Mahalakshmi's look of approval soothes Him.

INBRIEF

Chai Kings raises₹24 crore in Series A funding from AVT

Chai Kings, a popular tea retail chain, said it had raised ₹24 crore ($3 million) in a Series A funding round from A.V. Thomas and Co. Ltd. (AVT), a packaged tea player. With this infusion, Chai Kings aims to accelerate its expansion plans, enhance product offerings, and strengthen supply chain. The investment will also be utilised for technology-driven customer engagement and operational efficiencies. Chai Kings said it will close FY25 with a revenue of ₹48 crore.

TAFE appoints Lakshmi Venu as vice chairperson

Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. (TAFE) on Monday appointed Lakshmi Venu as vice chairman. "Lakshmi has been a key member of our leadership team and a member of TAFE's Board. With her leadership style that is focused on building for the future, we look forward to her leveraging TAFE's collaborative, value-based approach toward its vision of 'Cultivating the World'. We extend our warmest good wishes to her," said chairman & MD Mallika Srinivasan.

Coffee Day to clear ₹205 crore debt in three tranches

Coffee Day Enterprises, a firm promoted by the late V.G. Siddhartha, which owns the coffee retail chain Cafe Coffee Day, said it had agreed to settle the outstanding debt of two debenture holders for an amount of ₹205 crore, payable in three tranches. This includes the amount realised on sale of 12.41% of the pledged and invoked shares of Coffee Day Global Limited, a subsidiary of Coffee Day Enterprises, by the lender to a third party for ₹55 crore.

Tata Motors to raise CV prices by up to 2% from April 1

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced a price increase of up to 2% across its commercial vehicle (CV) range effective April 1, 2025.

The price increase is to offset the rise in input costs, and will vary as per individual model and variant, the company said.

As per data released by Federation of Automobile Dealers Association, CV retail sales saw a 8.6% YoY drop in February. Dealers reported weak sales in transportation sector, tighter finance norms and pricing pressures – especially affecting bulk orders and institutional contracts.

Manufactured items hasten Feb. WPI inflation to 2.38%

Prices of manufactured products rose to a two-year high of 2.86% in February; non-food primary inflation hastened to 4.84% in the reporting month as against 2.85% in the previous month

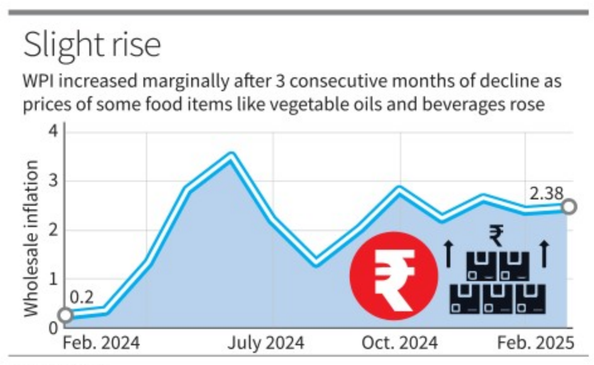
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Wholesale price inflation hastened to 2.38% as cost of manufactured food products, among others, increased in February, from 2.31% in the previous month, according to data from Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Prices of manufactured products rose to a two-year high of 2.86% in the reporting month.

"Excluding food, core manufactured WPI inflation rose to 1.3% y-o-y from 1% in January. We think core WPI inflation may rise gradually over the coming months, reflecting the rise in international metal prices in February," said Aastha Gudwani, India Chief Economist at Barclays Research. Primary articles continued to dis-inflate for six consecutive months coming in at 2.81% in February 2025. Food price inflation was at a four-month low of 3.38% in February 2025. "Expectedly, the correction is now tapering," Ms. Gudwani wrote in the research note. Non-food primary inflation rose to 4.84% in the reporting month as against 2.85% in the previous month. The increase was however on account of a lower base, Ms. Gudwani wrote.

Fuel and power sector experienced a deflation of 0.71%, slowing from a fall in prices by 2.78% in January 2025. Price change in the sector has been in the negative territory for seven months.



Source: CMIE

India to gain in an uncertain world of tariffs: SBI report

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Even as tariff action by U.S. President Donald Trump looms large, the SBI said India would stand to gain in an increasingly uncertain world of tariffs.

"Long trends indicate possible downturn in U.S. GDP growth along with slowdown in U.S. exports and consumption," the State Bank of India (SBI) said in a report, adding that the decline in exports from India to the U.S. could be in the range of 3-3.5% post reciprocal tariffs, if any.

"We estimated decline in exports in the range of 3-3.5% which should be negated through higher export goals across manufacturing and services fronts, as India has diversified its exports kitty, pitched value addition, exploring alternate areas and works on new routes that transcend from Europe to the U.S.A via the Middle-East, redrawing new supply chain algorithms," it said.

Kaushal takes charge as CMD of HPCL

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Vikas Kaushal has assumed charge as the CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), the public sector company said in a statement.

A chemical engineering graduate from DCET, Panjab University, he holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, it said.

He started his career with ICICI Ltd, in project finance and advisory. Since 2000, he has been associated with A.T. Kearney.

NTT Data's submarine cable system to be commissioned in June

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The 8,100-km cable will connect Malaysia, India, Singapore and Thailand

NTT Data, a data services firm, has announced that its Malaysia, India, Singapore Transit (MIST) submarine cable system would be commissioned by June 2025, providing direct connectivity to and from India.

The 8,100-km cable, which can carry over 200 terabits per second (Tbps), is one of the largest cables in Asia, and will connect Malaysia, India, Singapore and Thailand.

MIST was connected to NTT Data's Mumbai landing station in February 2023 and its Chennai landing station in May 2023.

NTT Data is scaling its global capacity from more than 1,500 MW to exceed 2,000 MW.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,170	0.46
US Dollar	86.81	0.27
Gold	90,750	1.45
Brent oil	70.90	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2252.70	31.60
Adani Ports	1137.15	17.95
Apollo Hosp	6156.65	51.00
Asian Paints	2219.55	-11.75
Axis Bank	1034.15	23.95
Bajaj Auto	7486.05	-18.65
Bajaj Finserv	1871.60	64.15
Bajaj Finance	8580.35	159.90
Bharat Elec	279.93	-0.14
Bharti Airtel	1639.15	6.65
BPCL	261.42	-2.99
Britannia Ind	4674.90	-53.35
Cipla	1492.60	30.70
Coal India	385.75	7.45
Dr Reddys Lab	1150.70	42.75
Eicher Motors	5050.25	35.00
Grasim Ind	2399.35	29.15
HCL Tech	1545.15	10.40
HDFC Bank	1710.40	3.80
HDFC Life	629.80	7.40
Hero MotoCorp	3493.10	-36.05
Hindalco	680.75	3.40
Hind Unilever	2171.25	-3.55
ICICI Bank	1269.00	18.95
IndusInd Bank	677.40	5.05
Infosys	1590.05	10.20
ITC	407.95	-4.10
JSW Steel	1005.70	4.50
Kotak Bank	1993.10	8.00
L&T	3173.45	-13.85
M&M	2705.15	61.65
Maruti Suzuki	11553.70	39.90
NestleIndia	2174.35	-17.60
NTPC	331.65	-0.25
ONGC	229.74	4.31
PowerGrid Corp	267.35	-0.30
Reliance Ind	1238.85	-9.05
SBI Life	1434.25	48.70
State Bank	723.15	-4.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	623.25	3.70
Sun Pharma	1704.30	20.85
TataConsumerProduct	940.45	-5.65
Tata Motors	661.05	5.55
Tata Steel	151.81	0.93
TCS	3497.70	-13.35
Tech Mahindra	1440.10	-0.55
Titan	3017.35	7.20
Trent Ltd.	5159.55	137.15
UltraTech Cement	10547.10	95.00
Wipro	259.85	-4.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.80	87.12
Euro	94.32	94.67
British Pound	112.40	112.82
Japanese Yen (100)	58.60	58.82
Chinese Yuan	11.98	12.03
Swiss Franc	98.30	98.66
Singapore Dollar	64.98	65.23
Canadian Dollar	60.34	60.57
Malaysian Ringitt	19.57	19.66
Australian Dollar	54.55	54.76

Source:Indian Bank

FINANCIAL YEAR END ADVANTAGE.
SPECIAL ROI OF 7.77%*. LIMITED PERIOD OFFER.
THE X7
THE X5
THE X7
THE X5
Depreciation Benefits up to ₹ 9.85 Lakh*
Flexible Down Payment & Assured Buyback with Smart Finance Plan
Additional Benefits worth ₹ 2.25 Lakh*
BMW KUN Exclusive
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PARIS

Canada PM in Europe to work with 'reliable allies' in face of U.S. threats

AP

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney said it was important to strengthen ties with "reliable allies" in Europe, as he met French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday. Carney's decision to visit Paris instead of Washington, as is usual for Canadian leaders, comes after U.S. President Donald Trump escalated trade tensions. REUTERS

CAIRO

Israel kills three in latest Gaza strike; no progress on truce talks

REUTERS

An Israeli air strike on Monday killed three Palestinian men in the Gaza Strip, with no sign of progress from renewed talks on sustaining a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. The men were killed near Bureij camp in the centre of the devastated Palestinian enclave by a missile fired from a drone. REUTERS

JOHANNESBURG

Improving relations with the U.S. is a priority, says South Africa leader

AP

South Africa considers improving its relationship with the U.S. a "priority", President Cyril Ramaphosa said after Washington expelled Pretoria's Ambassador. "They are our second largest trading partner after China and we will therefore seek, as we must, to ensure that our relations are on a good footing," he said. AFP

MANILA

Philippine Senate launching probe into ex-President Duterte's arrest

REUTERS

The Philippine Senate will probe ex-President Rodrigo Duterte's arrest and swift handover to the International Criminal Court, which is to try him for 'crimes against humanity'. The probe was initiated by Imee Marcos, sister of President Ferdinand Marcos but a close friend of Duterte's eldest daughter, Vice-President Sara Duterte. AFP

China calls for talks as U.S. and Houthis trade attacks

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China on Monday called for "dialogue" and a de-escalation of tensions in the Red Sea after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed to have twice attacked a U.S. aircraft carrier group within 24 hours.

"China opposes any action that escalates the situation in the Red Sea," China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said while holding a regular briefing.

"The reasons behind the situation in the Red Sea and the Yemen issue are complex and should be properly resolved through dialogue and negotiation," Ms. Mao added.

New U.S. air strikes on Yemen pile pressure on the Houthis

The latest attacks follow Saturday's strikes that killed 53 people and target Hodeidah and Al Jawf governorate north of Sanaa; Trump warns Iran by linking it directly to Houthis' actions

Reuters
ADEN

The United States carried out new air strikes on Yemen on Monday, the Houthis' Al Masirah TV said, expanding the biggest U.S. military operation in West Asia since President Donald Trump took office in January.

Responding to the Iran-aligned Houthi's threats to international shipping, the U.S. had launched a new wave of air strikes on Saturday. On Monday, the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah and Al Jawf governorate north of the capital Sanaa were targeted.

Ground zero: People inspect the rubble of a house hit by a U.S. strike on the weekend in Yemen's northern Saada province. AFP

At least 53 people were killed in Saturday's attacks. Five children and two women were among the victims and 98 have been hurt

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump on Monday explicitly linked the actions of Houthis to the group's main benefactor, Iran, warning Tehran would "suffer the consequences" for further attacks by the group.

Describing the Houthis as "sinister mobsters," Mr. Trump warned any attack by the group would be met with "great force, and there is no guarantee that that force will stop there."

"Every shot fired by the Houthis will be looked upon, from this point forward, as being a shot fired from the weapons and leadership of IRAN, and IRAN will be held responsible, and suffer the consequences, and those consequences will be dire!" he added.

Trump to speak with Putin today on ending Ukraine war

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump will speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday in a possible pivot point in efforts to end the war in Ukraine and an opportunity for Mr. Trump to continue reorienting American foreign policy.

Mr. Trump disclosed the upcoming conversation to reporters while flying from Florida to Washington on Air Force One on Sunday evening, while the Kremlin confirmed Mr. Putin's participation on Monday morning.

"We will see if we have something to announce maybe by Tuesday. I will be speaking to President Putin on Tuesday," Mr. Trump said. "A lot of work's been done over the weekend. We want to see if we can bring that war to an end."

Impact point: Firefighters put out the fire at a storehouse following a Russian attack in Chuhuiv in Kharkiv in Ukraine on Monday. AP

Little details

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday morning confirmed the plans for the two leaders to speak on Tuesday, but declined to give details.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces launched a drone attack on southern Russia overnight, sparking a blaze at an oil refinery, local authorities said Monday, as Moscow launched a barrage of nearly 200 drones against Ukraine.

Trump letter seeking nuclear deal mirrors his remarks, says Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran said on Monday that a letter it received from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has called for striking a nuclear deal with the Islamic republic, echoed his public statements.

"The content of the letter is not far removed from Trump's public statements and repeats the same talking points," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said. "Our response will be provided through the appropriate channels once the assessment is complete," he added. The letter – which Mr. Trump said was addressed to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei – was delivered to Tehran last Wednesday.

The content of the letter is not far removed from Trump's public statements: Tehran

On the same day, Khamenei ruled out holding talks with the U.S. He said the proposed negotiations "will not lift sanctions" but will instead "make the sanctions knot tighter".

Trump attempts to void some Biden pardons, including the ones to Jan. 6 Committee and Fauci

Sriram Lakshman

U.S. President Donald Trump has attempted to void some of his predecessor Joe Biden's eleventh hour pardons, the latest in a series of moves to prosecute his political opponents.

The pardons Mr. Trump declared void included those for Members of the U.S. House of Representatives investigating the January 6, 2020, attack on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of Trump supporters. Others pardoned by Mr. Biden just before he stepped down as President on January 20, 2025 included Anthony Fauci, who led the Biden Administration's response to COVID-19 and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley.

Donald Trump

"The 'Pardons' that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of Political Thugs, and many others, are hereby declared VOID, VACANT, AND OF NO FURTHER FORCE OR EFFECT, because of the fact that they were done by Autopen," Mr. Trump wrote on his 'Truth Social' media platform on Monday .

The January 6 Select Committee included Republican Liz Cheney, a Trump critic and daughter of former U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney, as well as Adam Kinzinger who represented the 11th District in Illinois. It also included Democrat Adam Schiff, who is now a U.S. Senator from California and a vocal critic of Mr. Trump.

On his first day in office, Mr. Trump had pardoned or commuted sentences in more than 1,500 cases connected to the January 6 attack. Mr. Trump argued on Monday that Mr. Biden did not sign the pardons himself and claimed, without any proof, that Mr. Biden did not even know about the pardons. "Therefore, those on the Unselect Committee, who destroyed and deleted ALL evidence obtained during their two year Witch Hunt of me, and many other innocent people, should fully understand that they are subject to investigation at the highest level."

Mr. Trump further suggested – without providing any evidence – that members of the Select Committee were probably responsible for signing the pardons without Mr. Biden's knowledge.

The President, however, admitted that it was the courts that would ultimately decide if he had the ability to rescind previous Presidential pardons.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump are among recent U.S. Presidents who have used the pardon to protect their allies or families, often pre-emptively. The courts have thus far been reluctant to curtail the President's powers of pardon, sanctioned by Article II Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

Bangladesh's Yunus to visit China, meet President Xi

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi leader Muhammad Yunus will travel to Beijing on a diplomatic goodwill visit this month as frosty relations with India spur his caretaker administration to court new friends.

Mr. Yunus is slated to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping during the March 26-29 visit.

He will also receive an honorary doctorate from Peking University and meet several Chinese firms to explore investment opportunities.

Sport

Barca's late surge swamps Atletico

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
MADRID

Barcelona's Ferran Torres scored twice to help secure a late 4-2 comeback win at Atletico Madrid in a pulsating LaLiga clash on Sunday that took the Catalans back to the top of the table.

Barca have 60 points and a game in hand.

They are level on points with Real Madrid, which won 2-1 at Villarreal on Saturday. Atletico remain third with 56 points from 28 games.

Inter extend lead

In Serie A, Inter Milan extended its lead at the top to three points with a 2-0 win at third-placed title rival Atalanta as both sides finished with 10 men.

On cloud nine: Torres, right, shone with a brace for Barcelona. GETTY IMAGES

Inter moved to 64 points ahead of Napoli, which has 61, while Atalanta remains on 58 points.

Meanwhile, Manchester United's Rasmus Hojlund and Alejandro Garnacho ended goal droughts and Bruno Fernandes scored again to earn a 3-0 win at struggling Leicester City in the Premier League.

Top results:

Premier League: Leicester 0 lost to Manchester United 3 (Hojlund 28, Garnacho 67, Fernandes 90).

LaLiga: Sevilla 0 lost to Athletic Bilbao 1 (Alvarez 84); Osasuna 1 (Budimir 45-pen) lost to Getafe 2 (Terrats 55, 71); Rayo Vallecano 2 (Trejo 58, Diaz 72) drew with Real Sociedad 2 (Zubimendi 20, Mariezkurrena 80); Atletico Madrid 2 (Alvarez 45, Sorloth 70) lost to Barcelona 4 (Lewandowski 72, Torres 78, 90+8, Yamal 90+2).

Serie A: Atalanta 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Carlo Augusto 54, Martinez 87); Fiorentina 3 (Gosens 15, Mandragora 18, Gudmundsson 53) bt Juventus 0; Roma 1 (Dovbyk 62) bt Cagliari 0.

Bundesliga: Stuttgart 3 (Demirovic 14, Woltemade 48, Xhaka 62-og) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Frimpong 56, Hincapie 67, Stiller 88-og, Schick 90+4).

Draper and Andreeva claim titles

TENNIS

Associated Press
INDIAN WELLS

Jack Draper overwhelmed Holger Rune 6-2, 6-2 in a little more than an hour in the final of the BNP Paribas Open, achieving two big milestones by claiming his first Masters 1000 title and earning his debut in the top 10 of the ATP rankings.

Earlier on Sunday, Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva came back to beat No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the final to become the tournament's youngest champion since Serena Williams in 1999.

The 11th-ranked Andreeva improved to 19-3 this season – the most wins by a woman on tour – and collected her second Masters 1000 title of 2025. The other came at Dubai in February, which earned her a top-10 ranking for the first time. Andreeva will return to that upper tier in Monday's WTA rankings.

Desert storm: Andreeva, Draper came up with masterful displays to emerge triumphant. GETTY IMAGES

"You never know when it's your time," said Draper, a U.S. Open semifinalist in September. "I lost first round here last year, so I didn't get to experience the tournament too much. ... But I'd say this is one of my favourite tournaments now, of course."

The results: Final: Men: Jack Draper bt Holgar Rune 6-2, 6-2.

Women: Mirra Andreeva bt Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

SECOND IN COMMAND

Delhi Capitals names du Plessis as vice-captain for 2025 campaign

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Faf du Plessis was on Monday appointed vice-captain of Delhi Capitals for the Indian Premier League 2025 season beginning on March 22. The former South Africa captain will be Axar Patel's deputy. "I am very excited. Delhi has been great and the boys have been fantastic," he said in a video uploaded by the franchise.

PERSONAL REASONS

Afghan all-rounder Omarzai set to join Punjab Kings camp late

FILE PHOTO

Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai's arrival at Punjab Kings has been delayed due to personal reasons ahead of the upcoming IPL. The team's foreign players began arriving from Monday. However, Omarzai, the ICC ODI Player of the Year, would be able to join the squad only on Thursday.

COMING SOON

Aussie pacer Ellis yet to link up with Chennai Super Kings team

GETTY IMAGES

Chennai Super Kings CEO K.S. Viswanathan said Australia pacer Nathan Ellis is the only foreign recruit yet to join the team. "All others, including Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway, are here. Nathan will join soon," he said. Ravindra Jadeja has joined the team as well while R. Ashwin returns to the franchise after a decade.

ROLLER-COASTER

It's been a 360 degree turnaround: Hardik reflects on last few months

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

From incessant boos to frenzied adulation, Hardik Pandya has seen it all in the last few months. "The six-month phase where we won the World Cup, and then the kind of love I received on returning — it was a 360-degree turnaround." He said he never wavered from the belief that if he remained persistent, he would come out stronger.

IOC Board approves boxing's inclusion in 2028 LA Olympics

Press Trust of India
COSTA NAVARINO (GREECE)

Boxing is set to be included in the programme for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive board approved its inclusion ahead of its 144th session starting on Tuesday.

The decision follows the IOC's granting of provisional recognition to World Boxing last month, effectively sidelining the International Boxing Association (IBA) and transferring authority to the new governing body.

The March 18-21 IOC Session, which will also elect a new president to succeed Thomas Bach, is expected to ratify the executive board's decision for inclusion of boxing in the 2028 LA Games roster.

"After the provisional recognition of world boxing in February, we were in a position to take this decision so that this recommendation goes to the session," Bach said after the executive board meeting.

"I am very confident that the session will approve it so that all the boxers of the world then have certainty that they can participate in the Olympic Games L.A. 2028 if their national federation is recognised by world boxing."

Welcoming the decision, World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst, said: "This is a very significant and important decision for Olympic boxing and takes the sport one step closer to being restored to the Olympic programme."

Not on initial list

Boxing was not included on the 2028 LA Games initial sports programme approved by the IOC Session in February 2022 because of the ongoing concerns around the then international federation, the International Boxing Association (IBA).

Optimistic: IOC president Bach is confident that boxing will get the green signal for the next edition of the Games. GETTY IMAGES

IPL-18 COUNTDOWN

Sunrisers Hyderabad

THE DUGOUT

Pat Cummins (Capt.), Abhinav Manohar, Abhishek Sharma, Adam Zampa, Aniket Verma, Atharva Taide, Eshan Malinga, Harshal Patel, Heinrich Klaasen, Ishan Kishan, Jaydev Unadkat, Kamindu Mendis, Mohammed Shami, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Rahul Chahar, Sachin Baby, Simarjeet Singh, Travis Head, Wiaan Mulder, Zeeshan Ansari.

OVERALL NUMBERS

M	W	L
182	88	94

BY OPPONENT

	M	W	L
KKR	28	9	19
DC	24	13	11
RCB	24	13	11
PBKS	23	16	7
MI	23	10	13
CSK	21	6	15
RR	20	11	9
GT	4	1	3
LSG	4	1	3

Sunrisers' remaining matches were against GL (5), RPS (4) and PWI (2)

THE DRIVING FORCE

ABHISHEK SHARMA: The 24-year-old finished IPL 2024 with 484 runs, striking at 204.22. He hit 42 sixes in 16 games, the most by an Indian in a single campaign. Since then, Abhishek has scored three centuries in 28 games, striking at 200.86. Notably, in January this year, he struck an imperious 135 against England, India's highest individual T20I score.

SRH'S 2025 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

March 23	vs RR	Hyderabad	3.30 p.m.
March 27	vs LSG	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
March 30	vs DC	Visakhapatnam	3.30 p.m.
April 3	vs KKR	Kolkata	7.30 p.m
April 6	vs GT	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
April 12	vs PBKS	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
April 17	vs MI	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
April 23	vs MI	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
April 25	vs CSK	Chennai	7.30 p.m
May 2	vs GT	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
May 5	vs DC	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
May 10	vs KKR	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
May 13	vs RCB	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
May 18	vs LSG	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.

A power-packed batting line-up and a revamped bowling unit make Sunrisers one of the early playoff favourites this season

SRH will bank on its in-your-face approach

The team's ultra-aggressive batting is expected to continue as it has strengthened an already impressive line-up at the auction; the spin arsenal looks weak compared to the pace battery

Anirudh Velamuri

Sunrisers Hyderabad surprised everyone last season by notching up gargantuan totals with ease.

It registered the highest score in IPL history (287 for three vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and crossed the 250-run mark two more times (277 for three vs Mumbai Indians and 266 for seven vs Delhi Capitals). SRH stormed into its first final in six years but fell to Kolkata Knight Riders.

At the auction, two things were accomplished: strengthening an already impressive batting line-up and drafting in experienced bowling options following key departures.

With Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen, and Nitish Kumar Reddy being joined by wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan (₹11.25 crore), the team's ultra-aggressive style is unlikely to change.

Rejigged

SRH will sport a rejigged bowling unit this year. After the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T. Natarajan and Washington Sundar were let go, it secured the services of Mohammed Shami (₹10 crore), who picked up 28 wickets in the PowerPlay in the last two seasons, averaging 21.25 with an economy of 7.08.

Having been sidelined for more than a year with an ankle injury, the 34-year-old picked up 14 wickets across 11 T20 matches for Bengal and India on his comeback.

Most recently, Shami took nine wickets in 41 overs in India's victorious Champions Trophy campaign in the UAE.

Bowling duties

Harshal Patel (₹8 crore), along with Shami, will share bowling duties with the likes of skipper Pat Cummins, Jaydev Unadkat, Adam Zampa, Rahul Chahar, and Kamindu Mendis.

That said, Bhuvneshwar and Natarajan were standout death bowlers, and, in their absence, the senior bowlers must step up when the going gets tough.

How the relatively untested Eshan Malinga fares in Indian conditions will also be something to focus on.

Given the bulk of quality pacers, SRH's spin arsenal looks weak in comparison. Zampa's gametime and Chahar's consistency will be key areas the team will keep an eye on.

Injury trouble

SRH's injury troubles began early with the withdrawal of Brydon Carse. The England pacer has since been replaced by South Africa all-rounder Wiaan Mulder.

With vital personnel like Shami and Cummins dealing with various issues recently, the Hyderabad franchise, with a relatively thin squad, will ensure that workload management remains a top priority.

'Mistakes hurt my confidence but team calmed me down'

High praise: Mercedes boss Wolff was impressed with how Antonelli picked off drivers ahead of him. GETTY IMAGES

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
MELBOURNE

A wet and windy Albert Park offered a daunting test for the six drivers starting a Formula One season for the first time at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday but Mercedes' teen talent Kimi Antonelli passed his exam with flying colours.

Four out of the six rookies failed to finish but after qualifying 16th, Antonelli worked his way through the chaos of three safety cars and found himself gunning for a podium spot.

While a five-second penalty for an infringement in the pits initially put him back to fifth, stewards later reversed that decision.

Lifting spirits

That lifted spirits at Mercedes even higher after Antonelli's teammate George Russell finished third.

Antonelli produced the goods in the rain and wind after an error-strewn qualifying in scorching heat on Saturday.

"The team did a great job, they guided me through. After I made the mistakes, it kind of hurt my confidence a little bit," he said. "The team did great to calm me down and get me back into the rhythm. Also they made all the right calls."

The Italian stepped into the huge shoes vacated by Lewis Hamilton, who won six of his seven world championships with Mercedes before switching to Ferrari.

Antonelli ended up six places ahead of the Briton, who had an underwhelming debut for the Italian team and finished 10th.

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff was impressed with the way Antonelli had picked off the drivers ahead of him after starting near the back of the grid.

"Even very good drivers spun or hit the wall and its easier to not finish than to finish and he kept his cool, and was just very impressive to see," he said.

"It shows that he has a good future as long as the trajectory keeps being like it is."

Mercedes heads to China second in the constructors' standings, two points behind McLaren.

Russell has had to step up in Hamilton's absence, and Wolff praised the Briton for leading from the front. "There is so much talk about Kimi, and he merits that, but George is just so good," said Wolff.

"He extracts from the car more than the car has at times, he makes no mistakes, he's calm now, he's a true leader in the team and we're lucky to have him".

Snehit, Manush receive main draw wild cards for WTT Star Contender Chennai

TABLE TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The Indian wild cards for the main draw of the WTT Star Contender to be held here from March 25 to 30 have been confirmed.

In the men's section, India's S.F.R. Snehit and Manush Shah and two foreigners (Park Ganghyeon of Korea and Malta's Kim Taehyun) were awarded the wild cards while in the women's event, all four wild cards went to the host country – Sutirtha Mukherjee, Swastika Ghosh, Diya Chitale and Krittwika Sinha Roy.

"The other two wild card WTT nominations will be Indians and the names will be decided after a consultation between the Table Tennis Federation of India and head coach Massimo Costantini," Deepak Malik, co-founder and COO, Stupa Analytics, organiser of the WTT Star Contender, told *The Hindu* here on Monday.

There will be an exhibition match involving world No. 6 Hugo Calderano of Brazil, Egypt's Omar Assar (17) and Sharath Kamal (42) on March 29 to give a farewell to the Indian star.

Sharath Kamal.
FILE PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

"It was Sharath's idea to play with them," revealed Deepak.

Fans will get to meet some of the top-ranked players in the world, including Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto (world No. 4), Calderano to Hina Hayata of Japan (world No. 5 in women) at the Nehru Indoor Stadium.

"We will have a fan zone on March 29 and 30 at the tournament venue where fans can meet and greet the star paddlers," said Deepak.

WTT's CEO Steve Danton is expected to be in the city on March 28 to watch the tournament.

Harinder Pal finds Lee too hot to handle

SQUASH

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Duncan Lee of Malaysia proved too good for Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu as he secured a 13-11, 11-7, 11-6 victory in the men's first round of the Indian Tour Squash Championship – a PSA Challenger event – at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy on Monday.

It was neck-and-neck in the first game. Up 9-8, Lee hit the tin as his 35-year-old opponent drew level. Lee found the tin once again, attempting to drop the ball to the bottom right corner, for Harinder Pal to lead 10-9. Harinder Pal made an unforced error in turn to make it 10-10, before making another on 11-12 to lose the game.

In top gear: Lee got better as the match progressed. R. RAVINDRAN

Lee was in his element in the second game. He came up with smashes, drops and low balls to break rallies.

In the third, Lee looked undeniably the better player as he won 11-6.

Top results (first round):
Women: Tanvi Khanna bt Lea Barbeau (Fra) 11-5, 11-5, 11-9; Sofia Mateos (Esp) bt Pooja Arthi Raghu 7-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-8, 11-3; Lojayn Gohary (Egy) bt Nour Ramy (Egy) 11-8, 12-10, 11-5; Tessa ter Sluis (Ned) bt Erisa Sano Herring (Jpn) 11-9, 6-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6.

Men: Rahul Baitha bt Baptiste Bouin (Fra) 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 11-7; Yusha Nafees bt Ammar Altamimi (Kuw) 11-4, 11-9, 13-11; Adballa Hafez (Egy) bt Mohit Bhatt 11-1, 11-2, 11-4; Seif El-Shenawy (Egy) bt Arihant Kalamangalam Sunil 10-12, 11-5, 11-7, 11-6; Tomotaka Endo (Jpn) bt Sandhesh Palanivel Ravikumar 5-11, 11-7, 12-10, 10-12, 11-6; Suraj Kumar Chand bt Om Semwal 11-5, 11-5, 11-6; Duncan Lee (Mal) bt Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu 13-11, 11-7, 11-6; Maceo Levy (Fra) bt Diwakar Singh 7-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7.

INBRIEF

Abhinandh excels in WTT Youth Contender events

P. B. Abhinandh won a silver and a gold medal in the WTT Youth Contender table tennis tournaments held in two countries. Abhinandh lost to Ankur Bhattacharjee 7-11, 11-9, 5-11, 4-11 in the U-19 boys' final in Havirov (Czechia) on Sunday. Abhinandh had defeated Priyanuj Bhattacharya 11-8, 13-11, 11-9 in the U-19 boys' summit clash in Berlin recently.

Newcastle shocks Liverpool, ends 56-year trophy drought

Newcastle ended its 56-year trophy drought in stunning style as Dan Burn and Alexander Isak sealed a 2-1 win against Liverpool in the League Cup final on Sunday. Eddie Howe's side got its first major silverware since the 1969 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup. It was also Newcastle's first major domestic prize, dating back 70 years to the 1955 FA Cup. "We were well aware of the history, and we wanted to make the club proud. We wanted to score, we wanted to perform and we wanted to win," Howe said. "We are breaking new ground. I thought we were magnificent today".

The result: Final: Liverpool 1 (Chiesa 90+4) lost to Newcastle 2 (Burn 45, Isak 52).

LIVE TELECAST

NZ vs Pakistan: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.45 a.m.

Patidar will lead RCB for a long time: Kohli

The Bengaluru franchise gets a boost as all-rounder Bethell and pacer Hazlewood allay injury concerns and join the squad ahead of IPL 2025

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Ready for the challenge: RCB players are eyeing a maiden title in the 18th edition of the tournament. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Batting all-rounder Jacob Bethell and fast bowler Josh Hazlewood eased injury concerns by joining the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) squad at the RCB Unbox event held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

Bethell had missed the Champions Trophy due to a hamstring injury while Australian Hazlewood last played an international match in December last year.

The Unbox event, which witnessed a packed house, also gave fans a chance to see star player Virat Kohli. The former captain received the loudest cheers for his every move.

Kohli called on the supporters to back new captain Rajat Patidar.

"The guy who will come on to the stage next (Patidar) will lead you for a long time.

"Give him all the love you can. He is an amazing talent. He is a great player; we have all seen that. He has a great head on his shoulders.

"He will do a great job for this amazing franchise, and will take the team forward," Kohli said.

"It feels amazing to be back. The excitement and happiness is like every other season. I have been here for 18 years and absolutely love RCB. We have an amazing squad this time around.

"There is a lot of talent in the team. I am personally very excited about this season," Kohli added.

SNAPSHOTS

Harmanpreet rested for national camp

NEW DELHI: Captain Harmanpreet Singh has been given a break and several youngsters included as Hockey India and coach Craig Fulton on Monday named 36 probables for a 10-day camp in Bengaluru starting Tuesday.

The probables: Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Pawan, Suraj Karkera, H.S. Mohith. **Defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Sanjay, Jugraj Singh, Amandeep Lakra, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Varun Kumar, Yashdeep Siwach. **Midfielders:** Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mouseen, Vishnukant Singh, Rajinder Singh, C.B. Poovanna. **Forwards:** Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Gurjant Singh, Angad Bir Singh, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Boby Singh Dhami, Sudeep Chirmako, Selvam Karthi, Shilanand Lakra, Dilpreet Singh, Uttam Singh.

Marc Marquez. AP

Marc Marquez wins

TERMAS DE RÍO HONDO: Marc Marquez won the Argentina MotoGP on Sunday to maintain his perfect start to the season. He replicated his dream season beginning in Thailand a fortnight ago, beating his brother Alex once again to land Saturday's sprint and the main race from pole. He won the first two races of the season for the first time since 2014.

Gujarat Super League season two from May 1

AHMEDABAD: The second Gujarat Super League football will be held from May 1 to 13. Six teams will meet each other once in league stage. The top two will then play in the final on May 13 at TransStadia. Each squad must have 15 local players and a maximum of five from outside the state. Matches will be live on *SportsCast* India YouTube channel.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Badminton umpires clinic from March 29 to 31

The Karnataka Badminton Association will conduct an umpires clinic from March 29 to 31 at the Association premises. Applications close on March 24 and are to be sent to entries2kba @gmail.com. Call 90365 67795.

Hat-trick by Dharmendra

Dharmendra Pal scored a hat-trick to earn Rising Star-A HC a 3-3 draw against Raichur District HA in the KSHA-BHA Super Division league hockey on Monday.

The result: Rising Star-A 3 (Dharmendra Pal 10, 22, 45) drew with Raichur District 3 (Ankit Goud 19, Arham Ansari 21, 27).

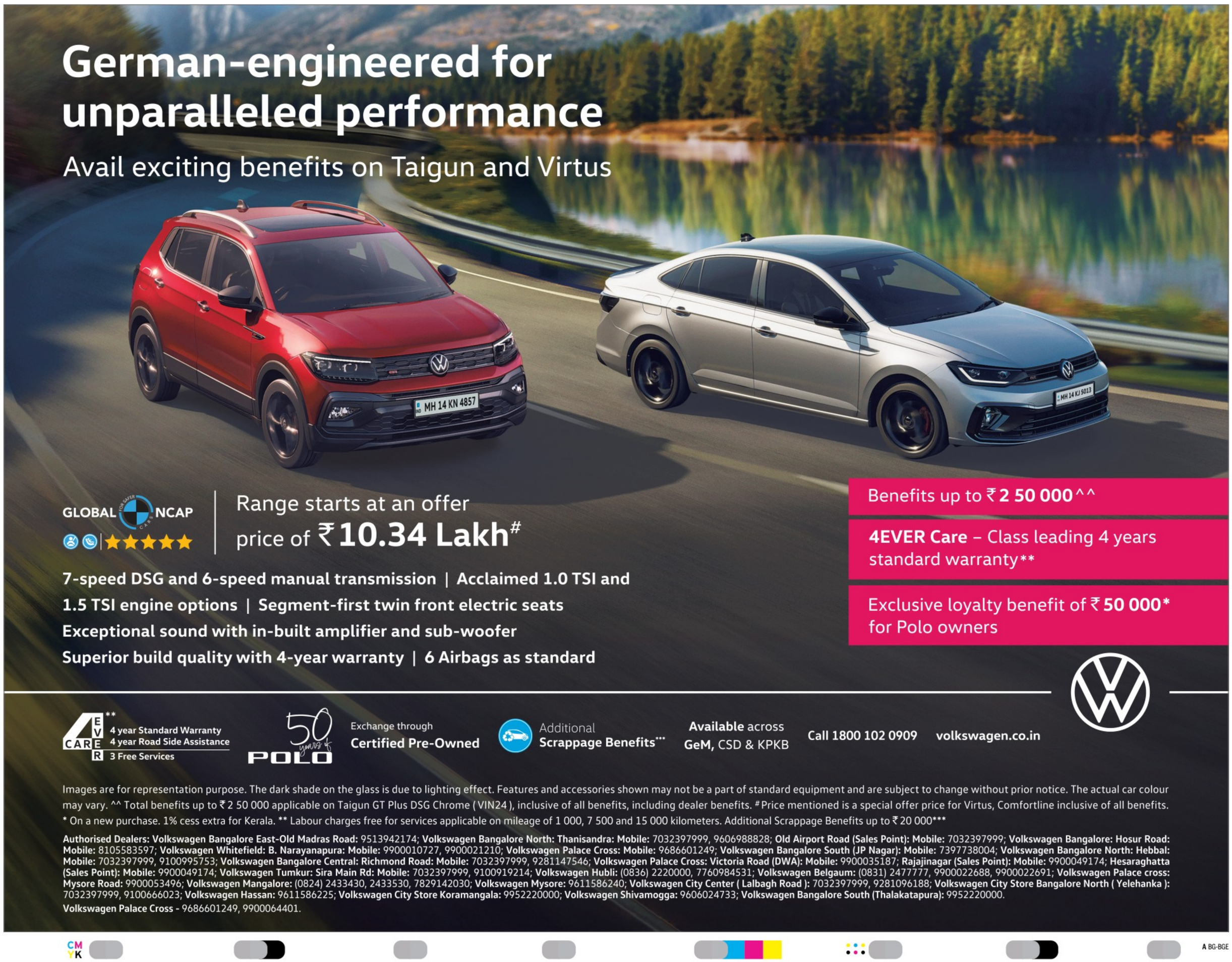
Abhil scores the winner

Abhil scored the winner as Snipers FC edged out AGORC 2-1 in the BDFA UrbanRise A-division league football on Monday.

The results: Roots (KSFA) 2 (Siddharth Jayanth 29, Keith Fernandes 49) bt Bangalore City 1 (Iruiwangbe Daime 80+1); Snipers (KSFA) 2 (Amal Suresh 13, Abhil 46) bt AGORC 1 (Jones Antony 16).

Classic chess event for children

Erin Foundation and Black Knights Chess Club will organise a Classic chess event for children in the under-8, 10, 12 and 16 categories, Open group and also for veterans (55 and above) on March 29 and 30 at the M.H. Mari Gowda Hall, Lalbagh (Double Road gate).
The entry fee for Open group is ₹750 and for age categories ₹650.
For those from government and aided schools, the fee is ₹250.
Entries close on March 27 (3 p.m.).
Call: 9886128808 / 7676826969 or email: contact@bkcc.co.in.
A few promising children will also be selected for mentoring by a team coordinated by former junior National champion from Karnataka, Sai Prakash, under a programme by the Erin Foundation and the WDP Inclusive Chess Committee. For details, contact: 9110669280.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